Friday, February 13, 2026 No 44 ₹7

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DH

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The Power of Good

Ishan, Hardik shine as India beat Namibia by 93 runs

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development &
Ganga Rejuvenation

ICDS

International Conference on Dam Safety-2026
Safe & Secure dams-
A Journey towards
Viksit Bharat

Shri C. R. Patil
Hon'ble Union Minister
Ministry of Jal Shakti

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Government of
Karnataka
Water Resources
Department

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DAM SAFETY (ICDS) - 2026

A two-day international conference aimed at strengthening dam safety practices through policy dialogue, technical exchange, and global collaboration.

13th February 2026, Friday at 9.30 a.m.

J. N. Tata Auditorium,
Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Malleswaram, Bengaluru

Inauguration by :
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Presided by :
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Chief Guests

Shri V. Somanna
Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Railways

Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary
Hon'ble Union Minister of State in Ministry of Jal Shakti

Ku. Shobha Karandlaje
Hon'ble Minister for State, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour & Employment & Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bengaluru North Constituency

Shri N. S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister of Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka

Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayana
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Malleshwaram Constituency, Bengaluru

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"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition,"
is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen.
This is affirmed by our Constitution.

Published by : Water Resource Department, GoK

'My caste is humanity': Maharashtra's Soundala shows the way

Village declares itself caste-free, passes resolution to eliminate discrimination

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

At a time when caste politics continues to divide Indian society, a small but significant social revolution is unfolding in Maharashtra's Soundala village.

Known for being at the forefront of progressive social reforms, Soundala has now declared itself a caste-free village by adopting the guiding principle "Amchi jaat... manav" (my caste is humanity), with the formal approval of the gram sabha.

The village now claims to be not only Maharashtra's first caste-free village but possibly the first in India.

The resolution was unanimously passed during the February 5 gram sabha meeting in Soundala, to eliminate discrimination and social injustice.

Soundala gram sabha.

"It is a small initiative, but it will go a long way," Sarpanch Sharad Argade told *DH* over the phone from Ahilyanagar on Thursday.

According to Argade, the resolution — a copy of which is with *DH* — was passed unanimously.

"The gathering included people from various castes and even members of the Muslim community. All voted in favour of the resolution," he said.

Resolution invokes Constitution

The resolution begins by invoking the Constitution and emphasises the Preamble — particularly the values of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

"In the meeting, it was unanimously decided and resolved that no one will follow caste or indulge in caste-based practices. We will be guided by 'Amchi jaat...manav'. The people will follow humanity," Argade said.

The resolution also provides for penalties against behaviour that goes against the ethos of the Constitution.

The decision was made under the guidance of noted social worker Pramod Zinjade, founder-president of the Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal, who has long worked for the eradication of social evils.

"I do not believe in caste. For me, humanity is the greatest caste and religion. All are equal," Zinjade told *DH* from Solapur.

"Some time ago, I appealed to all sarpanches to work towards the eradication of the caste system. Soundala and its sarpanch have taken the lead," he said.

Ninjade added that nearly a dozen other villages were working in the same direction.

"In April, we are holding a meeting of sarpanches to take this forward," he said.

Soundala previously passed several progressive resolutions, including those on gender sensitivity, banning child marriage, permitting remarriage of widowed women, action against domestic violence and dowry, promoting girls' education, and encouraging women's participation in the political process.

No final conclusions reached: AAIB on Air India crash

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Thursday said the probe into the Air India AI171 plane crash last year is still in progress and no final conclusions have been reached.

Issuing a clarification, AAIB said media reports suggesting that the investigation into the accident has been finalised are "incorrect and speculative".

In one of the worst aircraft accidents in India, a total of 260 people, including 241 passengers, died after Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after take-off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025.

"The investigation is still in progress. No final conclusions have been reached," AAIB said in a statement, and added that aircraft accident investigations are technical, evidence-based processes aimed at determining root causes and enhancing safety.

Further, the agency noted that the preliminary report released earlier provided factual information available at that stage.

"The final investigation report, containing conclusions and safety recommendations, will be published upon completion of the investigation in line with established international norms," it said.

Also, the AAIB urged media organisations to exercise restraint and avoid premature speculation. "Unverified reporting causes unnecessary public anxiety and undermines the integrity of an ongoing professional investigation."

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva with PM Narendra Modi.

PM Modi to host Brazil President Lula next week

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in New Delhi next week, when the two leaders will discuss ways to meet the target they set for raising annual bilateral trade from $12.20 billion in 2024-25 to $20 billion over the next five years.

Lula will visit New Delhi to attend the second edition of the AI Impact Summit. He will have a bilateral meeting with Modi on February 21.

The two leaders are expected to review bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in multilateral fora, reformed multilateralism, global governance, and issues concerning the Global South, said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Lula is expected to be accompanied by about 14 ministers and a large delegation of CEOs of top Brazilian companies. The accompanying ministers would reportedly have meetings with their Indian counterparts.

"The two large democracies have been strategic partners since 2006," the MEA stated on Thursday.

Muslim body seeks rollback of Vande Mataram directive

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Mandating the recitation of Vande Mataram is unconstitutional and unacceptable, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has said, demanding that the Union government withdraw the notification.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the AIMPLB said it strongly objected to the Centre's directive mandating the recitation of all verses of Vande Mataram at official functions and in schools before the National Anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*.

The board termed the move unconstitutional and contrary to religious freedom.

AIMPLB General Secretary Maulana Mohammed Fazlur Rahim Mujaddidi said the decision violated constitutional principles, secular values and Supreme Court rulings, and directly conflicted with the religious beliefs of Muslims. He said the directive was therefore completely unacceptable.

He noted that, following Rabindranath Tagore's advice and deliberations in the Constituent Assembly, it had been agreed that only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram would be used.

He said a secular government could not impose the beliefs or practices of one religion on followers of another. He added that the song, written in the context of Bengal, contains references to the worship of Durga and other deities.

He also stated that courts had held that the other verses were inconsistent with secular values and had restricted their recitation.

India clears air on US trade fact sheet

Says amendments reflect shared understanding

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Thursday said its joint statement with the US remains the basis for a proposed interim trade agreement, and that the amendments in a White House fact sheet reflect the shared understandings.

The fact sheet, brought out by the White House on Monday, triggered a controversy as it mentioned that India would reduce tariffs on "certain pulses" and had "committed" to buying American goods, including energy and technology, worth USD 500 billion over five years.

Randhir Jaiswal

The document was revised later and the contentious issues were removed.

"As you are aware, the India-US joint statement on the framework for an interim agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade was issued on February 7," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

"The joint statement is the framework and remains the basis of our mutual understanding in the matter. Both sides will now work towards implementing this framework and finalising the interim agreement," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a question on the issue.

"The amendments in the US factsheet reflect the shared understandings contained in the joint statement," he said.

It is learnt that the Indian side flagged concerns over the formulations in the fact sheet following which the White House made the amendments.

The revised fact sheet issued on Tuesday removed the reference made regarding pulses.

"India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," it said.

It also removed a reference to India removing its digital services taxes.

The amended document said that the Indian side is committed to negotiating digital trade rules.

The amended fact sheet also stated that India "intends to buy" more US goods.

To a question on Trump's Board of Peace, Jaiswal said India received an invitation for it and New Delhi is currently considering it.

India's foreign policy guided by its national interest, govt tells Parl

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's foreign policy is guided by its "overarching national interest," and engagements with different partners are guided by considerations of mutual benefit, the government informed Parliament.

In a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said, "India's foreign policy is guided by its overarching national interest. Strategic autonomy is an important strand of our foreign policy. Engagements with different partners are guided by considerations of mutual benefit."

Decisions relating to energy and defence are based on "considerations of security and availability, as well as the need to diversify sourcing," he said.

Govt can file FIRs, privilege motion, but will stand firmly with farmers: Rahul

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the government can file FIRs or privilege motions against him, but he will stand firmly with the farmers, who will be suffering due to the India-US trade deal.

In a video posted on X, he accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "anti-farmer" and "selling" the country through the trade deal with the US. He claimed that there is a "chokehold" on Modi and his "reins" are in the hands of US President Donald Trump.

He said, "FIR is filed, a case is registered, or a privilege motion is brought — I will fight for the farmers. Any trade deal that takes away the farmers' livelihood or weakens the country's food security is anti-farmer. We will not let the anti-farmer Modi government compromise on the interests of the food providers."

LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Budget session of Parliament. PTI

Recalling that the Congress has fought for food security, he alleged that Modi has "betrayed" India's food security and farmers. He claimed that Modi has sold cotton, soya, apple and fruit farmers by striking a deal with the US.

"For years, foreigners have been trying to capture our agricultural market. This is the truth, Modi also knows this. He has done this as there is a chokehold on his neck. Modi's reins are in the hands of Donald Trump. Maize, cotton, soya bean and fruit farmers are only the beginning," he said.

"Narendra Modi will open the doors to the entire agriculture market for his friends like Adani, Ambani and for foreign powers. The whole country and the farmers know that Narendra Modi is anti-farmer," he alleged.

"Narendra Modi has sold the country and its farmers. You put cases against me, abuse me, do whatever you want, file a privilege motion, it does not matter to me. I have spoken the truth in Parliament, you may not like it, but the country knows the truth. Do whatever you want, I am standing with the farmers. I will not budge even an inch," Rahul said.

In his WhatsApp channel, while posting the video, he asked why Modi is always ready to sacrifice farmers.

"First, he introduced black laws to benefit his billionaire friends - now, to free himself from the American stranglehold, he has opened the doors of Indian agriculture to Trump's America," he claimed.

Oppn has upper hand during 1st phase of Budget Session: Rahul

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid the government and the Opposition fighting for dominance in Parliament, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday told the party's Lok Sabha MPs that the party and its allies had the upper hand during the first phase of the Budget Session, during which they managed to corner the government on a variety of issues.

At a meeting of Congress Lok Sabha MPs here this evening, sources said the Leader of the Opposition asked the lawmakers to stand firmly with the farmers against the "injustice" meted out to them through the India-US interim trade deal, which he claimed was a "sell-out".

He said the MPs will have to take the message to the masses across the country about how the deal was detrimental to the interests of the party.

At the meeting attended by Congress General Secretaries and senior MPs KC Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Chief Whip Kodikkunnil Suresh and Whips Mohd Jawed and Manickam Tagore, he congratulated the seven party MPs, including Hibi Eden and Dean Kuriakose, for forcefully taking up people's issues.

Suspended MPs

The MPs were suspended as they protested against not allowing Rahul to raise contentious issues and conclude his speech in Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha.

Tagore, one of the seven Congress MPs who were suspended, posted on the social media platform X after the meeting, "We thank our leader for specially appreciating the courage and commitment of the eight suspended MPs who stood firm in raising the voice of the people. Democracy demands accountability, and our MPs upheld it with dignity."

Dubey moves substantive motion against Rahul

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Thursday filed a substantive motion seeking to dismiss the membership of Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi. While the BJP had said on Wednesday that it would initiate a privilege motion, sources said the party had decided against doing so.

Nishikant Dubey

Around 5 pm, Dubey rose to give notice under Rule 352(5) and Rule 353. "The Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi behaves like an urban naxal and has links with the Soros Foundation (of billionaire George Soros) and the Ford Foundation. He travels to Vietnam, Bahrain and Thailand with anti-nationals and questions the Election Commission, the Constitution and the Speaker," Dubey alleged.

Dubey said that Rahul's membership should be annulled and he should not be allowed to be a member at all.

A substantive motion is a self-contained proposal brought forward on a subject that the mover wishes to raise. If accepted, the motion is placed for consideration.

Rule 352(v) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha refers to restrictions on references to specific individuals during debates. It states that a member, while speaking, shall not "reflect upon the conduct of persons in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion drawn in proper terms".

Rule 353 governs the procedure for members making allegations against other members or individuals, requiring them to provide advance notice to the Speaker and the concerned minister.

IAF to train UK's Royal Air Force pilots

NEW DELHI, PTI: For the first time, the Indian Air Force is set to train pilots of the UK's Royal Air Force under a new initiative.

The decision was taken at the 19th UK-India Air Staff Talks held on Thursday in New Delhi. "Under the latest agreement, the Indian Air Force will deploy three Qualified Flight Instructors (QFI) to Royal Air Force (RAF) Valley in the UK — the training base for British fast jet pilots," a British readout said.

"This marks the first time that Indian QFIs will impart fast jet training to British pilots at RAF Valley. The deployment will be initially for a period of two years," it said.

The new initiative marked all three British military academies now hosting Indian officers as instructors from respective services.

Gujarat govt circular asking teachers to count stray dogs sparks row

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A Gujarat government circular directing schoolteachers to conduct an immediate survey of stray dogs on their school campuses and send reports to their respective district education offices within three days has kicked off a fresh row.

The direction follows a similar move by a Bihar local body that, in early-January, asked teachers of government schools to compile similar data.

The Gujarat circular, which the deputy director of education in Gandhinagar issued on Wednesday, emphasises that this task should be given priority as it pertains to a "Supreme Court matter".

Taking suo motu cognisance of the stray dog menace across India, the court directed state governments to compile data on dogs across education institutions, hospitals, dispensaries, bus stations, railway stations, and other public places.

The notification has sparked a controversy, with teachers' bodies and Opposition parties protesting the move, saying it would burden teachers with non-academic work.

Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi alleged that teachers in the state had been assigned non-academic duties for a very long time, which was affecting teaching. He also claimed that over 3,000 schools had just a single teacher each.

Education Minister Pradyumn Vaja, however, told reporters that the circular was issued in the wake of a Supreme Court order, adding: "The work is limited only to one's own school, and there is no further requirement to conduct surveys at any external locations."

An organisation representing talatis wrote to the state government, calling the new responsibility "insulting" and "impractical".

After 'Babri' row, Trinamool turns up the heat on suspended MLA

RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR
KOLKATA

Janata Unnayan Party (JUP) leader and suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir, who has emerged as a thorn in the ruling party's side ahead of the Assembly elections, is now facing heat from the Mamata Banerjee government.

After work began on Wednesday on his proposed 'Babri Masjid' in Murshidabad's Beldanga, an FIR was lodged seeking Kabir's arrest for allegedly inciting communal tension.

The West Bengal police have moved to freeze the properties of Shariful Islam, father-in-law of Kabir's daughter Najma Sultana, over alleged involvement in a drug-trafficking case.

Humayun Kabir at the construction site of a mosque modelled on Ayodhya's Babri Masjid at Beldanga on Wednesday. PTI

According to police sources, assets worth Rs 10.73 crore are set to be confiscated following a court order.

Kabir's daughter Sultana slammed the TMC, calling the entire operation a political conspiracy and witch-hunt. "This is being done at the behest of Mamata Banerjee as she cannot touch my father in any other way. So they are targeting us, his closest kin, only because my father has raised his voice against the party," she said.

Kabir was suspended from the TMC after proposing to build a replica of the Babri Masjid. The move drew sharp criticism from Mamata, with the party accusing him of anti-party activities. TMC leaders questioned his decision to name the mosque 'Babri Masjid'.

Kolkata mayor and senior TMC leader Firhad Hakim alleged that Kabir's plan was aimed at stoking communal tension ahead of the elections.

On Friday, Kabir launched a 'Babri March' from Plassey in Nadia to Beldanga. His gambit is seen as an attempt to realign politics in Murshidabad, where Muslims make up over 70% of the population. Kabir plans to contest at least 135 of the state's 294 seats.

Political analyst Amitabh Tiwari notes that Muslims accounted for 27% of West Bengal's population in the 2011 census, a figure the BJP claims may now be closer to 30% due to illegal immigration from Bangladesh.

With Kabir's entry into the political arena, the TMC — often accused of Muslim appeasement — faces a fresh rival in Muslim socio-political mobilisation, a factor that could alter the poll outcome.

END OF ERA

Modi to chair last Cabinet meeting in South Block before PMO shift

NEW DELHI, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a special meeting of the Union Cabinet at South Block on Friday, the last such gathering at the British-era secretariat building before the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) shifts to its new complex, 'Seva Teerth'.

Official sources confirmed this will be the Cabinet's final meeting in the PMO located in the imperial complex designed by British architect Herbert Baker in the early 1900s to meet the requirements of the British Raj.

The cabinet meeting, scheduled for 4 pm on Friday, will be followed by the PMO's relocation to 'Seva Teerth'. The move will mark the end of an era, as all government departments vacate the North and South blocks, the seat of power since 1921.

The government plans to convert the iconic buildings into the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum', a world-class museum tracing India's civilisational journey. The relocation is part of the government's broader initiative to decolonise India's administrative architecture and governance.

Modi is scheduled to inaugurate Seva Teerth, the new PMO building, along with Kartavya Bhawan 1 and 2, on Friday. The inauguration marks a transformative milestone in India's administrative governance architecture and reflects the PM's commitment to building a modern, efficient, accessible and citizen-centric governance ecosystem, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

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Byrathi Basavaraj arrested in murder case

Supreme Court denies advance bail to BJP MLA

Page 3

Conditional nod for IPL matches at Chinnaswamy

Home dept to issue order based on Cunha panel report

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to give conditional approval for IPL matches at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"The Cabinet has decided to allow IPL matches to be played at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. But conditions will be imposed and the order will be issued by the home department. The order will specify the conditions and preparations required. The home minister will provide more details in a day or two," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said after the Cabinet meeting.

"The order will be issued factoring in the Cunha Commission report and findings of the Maheshwar Rao expert committee. The existing gates need widening. The government has taken a serious view of the Cunha Commission report," Patil stated.

Sources said the RCB wants to play its first match in Bengaluru as it is the defending champions.

Earlier in the day, Home Minister G Parameshwara held a meeting with key representatives of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and the RCB.

Briefing reporters following the meeting, Parameshwara said the KSCA had been directed to follow the recommendations of the Cunha Commission report.

"Some of the recommendations are infrastructural in nature and some are not. Some of the recommendations have been complied with. They [RCB] had sought permission to play the inaugural match from Bengaluru, since they won last year and are the defending champions," Parameshwara said.

▸ Chinnaswamy, Page 5

WHAT NEXT

- Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by PM will give final approval
- Formal contract after MoD negotiates cost, weapons package
- 18 jets will be supplied in fly away condition
- 96 jets will be manufactured in India with 50% plus indigenous content over phases

Boost for IAF as India to buy 114 Rafales

Rs 3.25L-cr deal to be India's biggest; comes ahead of French prez's visit

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

TIMELINE OF DEAL

Early 2000s Search begins for an alternative for MiG after Kargil conflict

2012 MoD shortlists Rafale as MMRCA option for IAF

2015 Govt cancels MMRCA tender

2016 India purchases 36 Rafales on emergency basis

2019 IAF issues request for information for 114 jets

2025 India, France ink Rs 64k-cr deal for 26 Rafale Marine jets for Indian Navy

2026 MoD approval for purchase of 114 Rafales for IAF

"The procurement of MRFA will enhance the capability of undertaking air dominance roles across the spectrum of conflict and significantly boost the deterrence capabilities of IAF" — AN OFFICIAL

Ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India, the Defence Ministry on Thursday cleared the long-awaited purchase of 114 Rafale combat jets from France in a whopping Rs 3.25 lakh crore government-to-government deal for the Indian Air Force that currently operates with a depleted squadron strength.

The Rafale deal constitutes the majority portion of Rs 3.60 lakh crore worth of military purchases that received the Acceptance of Necessity (AON) approval—the first step in India's protracted defence procurement process — from the Defence Advisory Council, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The aircraft's manufacturer, Dassault Aviation, will produce 96 aircraft in India for which it would tie up with local industries, sources said, adding that the remaining 18 would come in a fly away condition.

The 114 aircraft will be a mix of 88 single seater and 26 twin-seater (trainer) versions.

The Defence Ministry announced the decision before President Macron's February 17-19 visit during which he will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

▸ Rafale, Page 5

HAL inks Rs 2.3k-cr deal

The MoD on Thursday signed a Rs 2,300 crore-plus deal with the HAL to procure eight Dornier 228 aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard.

Details on Page 5

Bangladesh votes for 'political freedom'; BNP gains edge

SMITA SHARMA
DHAKA

Friday will see a new political dawn for Bangladesh as counting of votes was underway after polling ended on Thursday.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) appears to have the edge over its former ally Jamaat-e-Islami in the crucial general elections. Election officials and media reports said early results gave an edge to the BNP with its nominees leading in over 175 seats while Jamaat candidates were leading in 30 seats.

In unofficial results, Election Commission officials said BNP chairman and former premier Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman won from Dhaka-17 and Bogra-6 constituencies.

Officials sort ballots in Dhaka on Thursday. AFP

> I am hoping that my vote and those of my generation, would make a difference
> **Emaan Rehman**
> First -time voter

Jamaat-e-Islami president Shafiqur Rahman is leading from a seat in the capital while Jamaat's secretary general Mia Golam Porwar lost to his BNP rival Ali Asghar Lobby.

For the first time since 1991, the country will have a new male prime minister without the two begums -- the late Khaleda Zia and the exiled Sheikh Hasina -- who shaped the nation's politics for decades.

▸ Bangladesh, Page 5
Another report, Page 10

Leadership change not discussed, says Shivakumar

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid speculation over a leadership change in Karnataka, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar stated that he met Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, but the matter concerning a change in leadership was not discussed.

Speaking to reporters in Delhi, he reiterated that the central leadership would take the call at an appropriate time.

"We did not discuss anything on this during the meeting. The party's success story is very important. In the interest of the party, the leadership — Rahulji and Khargeji, and all our senior leaders — are there. They will take a call whenever they feel it is in the interest of Karnataka," he told reporters when asked if he had received any clarity from the high command on the leadership change issue.

Asked if he had been told to be patient, Shivakumar said, "Patience will also pay."

When asked whether his meetings with the top brass would yield results, he said, "My wishes are always fulfilled, maybe a little late."

▸ DKS, Page 5

Cabinet decides to shift Bangalore Turf Club to Kunigal Stud Farm

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to lease 110 acres and 20 guntas of land at Kunigal Stud Farm to the Bangalore Turf Club for a period of 29 years.

The turf club is expected to vacate the current location in Bengaluru in two years. The existing club area will be protected as a lung space.

"The Cabinet has decided to lease 101 acres and 24 guntas of land in block A and 8 acres and 36 guntas of land in block B (overall 110 acres and 20 guntas of land) to the Bangalore Turf Club for 29 years," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

Details on Page 3

Inflation rises to 2.75% in Jan

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Thursday released the first inflation data under the new Consumer Price Index series with base year 2024, replacing the 2012-based index. Under the new series, retail inflation in January stood at 2.75%. This is the highest level of retail inflation in eight months.

Details on Page 11

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ಒಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ, ಹಲವು ಜಗತ್ತುಗಳು
ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

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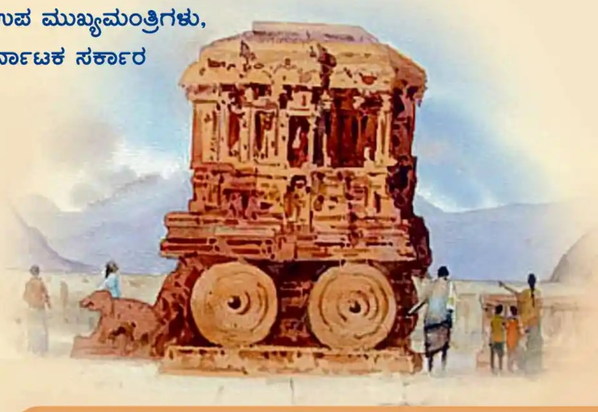
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಸತಿ, ವಕ್ಫ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ
ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು,
ಹಂಪಿ ಉತ್ಸವ 2026ರ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಂಸದರುಗಳು, ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್‌ನ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವರು.

ಘನ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ



ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವೇದಿಕೆ:
ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಪಿ. ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ, ಗಾಯಿತ್ರಿ ಪೀಠ, ಹಂಪಿ

ಸಮಾನಾಂತರ ವೇದಿಕೆಗಳು:
ಎದುರು ಬಸವಣ್ಣ ವೇದಿಕೆ । ವಿರೂಪಾಕ್ಷೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ವೇದಿಕೆ ।
ಸಾಸಿವೆಕಾಳು ಗಣಪ ವೇದಿಕೆ । ಮಹಾನವಮಿ ದಿಬ್ಬ ವೇದಿಕೆ

ಕನ್ನಡ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರರಂಗದ ಖ್ಯಾತ ನಟ, ನಟಿಯರು,
ಸಂಗೀತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ ಗಾಯಕರಿಂದ
ರಸಮಂಜರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ. ಆನೆಲಾಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜಯನಗರ
ವೈಭವದ ಧ್ವನಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಳಕು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ

ಹಂಪಿ ಉತ್ಸವ
ಗಿಸಿ, ೧೪ ಮತ್ತು ೧೫ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ, ೨೦೨೬
ನಮ್ಮ ನಾಡು, ನಮ್ಮ ಪಾರಂಪರೆ

ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಸಮಾರಂಭ
13.02.2026 ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ । ಸಂಜೆ 6.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 13, 14 ಮತ್ತು 15, 2026

ಗೌರವ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಜೆಡ್. ಜಮೀರ್ ಅಹ್ಮದ್ ಖಾನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಸತಿ, ವಕ್ಫ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್.ಕೆ. ಪಾಟೀಲ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು, ನ್ಯಾಯ, ಮಾನವ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು, ಸಂಸದೀಯ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ, ಶಾಸನ ರಚನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಸಚಿವರು ಮತ್ತು ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗಾರೆಡ್ಡಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ತಂಗಡಗಿ ಶಿವರಾಜ್ ಸಂಗಪ್ಪ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ:
ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ಆರ್. ಗವಿಯಪ್ಪ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು (ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ)
ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು:
ಹಂಪಿ ಬೈ ಸೈಕ್ಲ್ । ಎತ್ತುಗಳ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ । ರಂಗೋಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆ । ಫಲ ಪುಷ್ಪ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ । ಮತ್ಸ್ಯ ಮೇಳ । ಬೋಟಿಂಗ್ । ಹಂಪಿ ಇತಿಹಾಸ ಕುರಿತು ವಿಚಾರ ಸಂಕಿರಣ । ಆಹಾರ ಮೇಳ । ಡ್ರೋಣ್ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ । ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳು । ಕವಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿ । ಗಾಳಿಪಟ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ । ಯುವ ಗೋಷ್ಠಿ । ಜಾನಪದ ವಾಹಿನಿ

Advocate opposes public auction of properties

BENGALURU, DHNS: Advocate KV Dhananjay on Thursday wrote to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, highlighting discrepancies in the proposed auction of 7,020 properties by five municipal corporations over property tax defaults.

He pointed out that the GBA Act (Section 107) exempts educational institutions from property tax, yet the auction list includes such properties. Section 107 of the Karnataka Education Act also prohibits auctioning these properties without written clearance from the Education Department.

Dhananjay noted the list includes central government properties, which are exempt from state taxation under Article 285 of the Constitution. "This is not a provision that rewards creative interpretation," he said.

He questioned why one arm of the state government is auctioning property belonging to another, which he said also violates Article 300A of the Constitution.

Regarding private properties, Dhananjay said revenue officers are either uncooperative or unapproachable.

Two dead in road accidents

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two people, including a software engineer, died in separate road crashes in the Nelamangala and Bellandur traffic police limits on Thursday.

In the first incident, 29-year-old Yashwanth, a resident of Tumakuru district and a private firm employee, died after a vehicle struck his motorcycle on the TCI overpass in Nelamangala. Yashwanth was commuting to work when the collision occurred. He sustained serious injuries and died soon after.

Nelamangala traffic police are searching for the hit-and-run vehicle.

In a separate incident, Varshit, a 23-year-old software engineer, died after losing control of his bike and crashing into a compound wall on Sarjapur Road near Bellandur.

Varshit, a native of Tamil Nadu, was returning home to Sarjapur Road with his friend Vishanta Dutta around 2.30 am when the accident occurred. The bike veered off the road and hit a compound wall.

Varshit died on the spot, while Dutta is being treated at a local hospital.

Techie who murdered his parents found to have Schizophrenia

Admitted to Nimhans for counselling; to be taken into police custody later

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Rohan Chandra Bhat, the 33-year-old US-returned techie who allegedly stabbed his parents to death on Wednesday, had been mentally disturbed as he had no jobs for years.

Around 8.30 am on Wednesday, Rohan visited his parents' home in Vignan Nagar, near HAL, and stabbed them to death. Some morning walkers saw him run out in blood-stained clothes. They also heard his parents' cries for help.

Rohan

Rohan's father — Naveen Chandra Bhat (60) — was a retired Indian Navy captain. His mother — Dr Shyamala Bhat (55) — was a dentist by profession. Rohan has a younger sister, Rashmi Chandra Bhat. She lives in the US.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Rohan allegedly stabbed his parents in the back, stomach, neck, face and hands multiple times during an altercation.

Police investigations into the twin murders that sent shockwaves through the city reveal Rohan's acute mental condition.

"Doctors have diagnosed him with Schizophrenia (psychosis). We produced him before the court to seek custodial interrogation, but the court directed that he be sent to Nimhans for a medical fitness certification before his custody can be granted," a senior police officer said.

Accordingly, Rohan has been remanded in judicial custody and admitted to Nimhans for counselling. "We will take him in police custody for further investigations," the officer said.

Rohan reportedly told the police that his mother would give him milk laced with sleeping pills with the intention of killing him. His father would scold him for "ruining" the family's reputation by not finding employment. Rohan was also compared with his sister, who has a good job in the US.

Police also believe that Rohan had been harassing his parents for money as he wanted to found his own startup after returning from the US.

Speaking to *DH*, the family's gardener described Dr Shyamala as a kind dentist, who treated many people for free.

"They (Rohan's parents) were not in town for 10 days and had gone to Odisha for a family function. They returned to the villa just a day before the tragic incident. I never met their son Rohan during my working hours. He lived separately in Varthur," the gardener said.

He came to see parents night before killing them; house help recalls couple's kindness

BENGALURU, DHNS: US-returned techie Rohan Chandra Bhat, 33, arrested for stabbing his parents to death on Wednesday, had arrived at the family's home the previous night, made an entry in the visitors' register at the gate and went in, according to security guards.

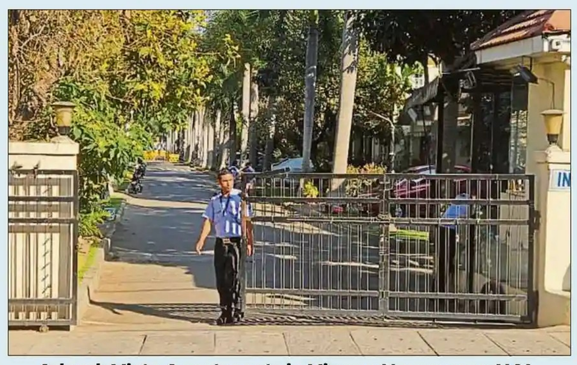
In the morning, Rohan got into an altercation with his parents — retired Navy Captain Naveen Chadra Bhat (60) and dentist Dr Shyamala Bhat (55).

Around 8.30 am, Naveen was found stabbed multiple times in the stomach and back in the garden in front of his villa, while Dr Shyamala was found lying in a pool of blood inside. Rohan was seen escaping from the villa with bloodstains, according to police investigations.

The shocking twin murders were reported from the couple's villa in Adarsh Vista Apartments, Vignan Nagar, near HAL, on Wednesday morning.

The residents called an ambulance, but when they realised it would arrive late, family gardener Naveen Kumar borrowed the car of another neighbour to take them to Manipal Hospitals.

The couple was subsequently declared brought dead at the hospital.


Adarsh Vista Apartments in Vignan Nagar, near HAL, where the family lived.

Naveen Chandra Bhat

Shyamala Bhat

Rohan, suffering from Schizophrenia (psychosis), lived separately in Varthur.

"He rarely visited his parents and we never saw any of his friends or relatives coming here. He also did not interact with anyone, including delivery staff or other security guards in the gated community," one of the neighbours said.

The family employed three people. Gaddemma had been working as a house help for nearly 15 years. They also had a cook and a gardener.

"They treated me like their own daughter and had strong faith in workers by leaving a spare house key with us," Gaddemma, a native of Koppal, said.

"When I came to know about the incident, I rushed to Manipal Hospitals and collapsed on seeing Shyamala's body. I felt that I have lost my own mother," she said.

On Thursday, the retired Navy captain's younger sister visited the villa. She got the workers to arrange the things and wash bloodstains inside the house.

However, police immediately stopped all cleaning as they were still gathering evidence from the crime scene.

Members of several trade unions during the protest in front of Town Hall on Thursday. DH PHOTO/MS MANJUNATH

Trade union strike: Mixed response from industries

Transport and essential services unaffected

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based trade unions joined a nationwide strike on Tuesday, opposing the four labour codes and demanding reinstatement of MGNREGA, among other issues.

Public transport and essential services remained unaffected, but the impact across industrial production and the services sector was mixed.

Hundreds of workers, union leaders, and members who gathered outside Town Hall on Tuesday morning were detained by the police.

"We had planned to assemble outside Town Hall first and then move to Freedom Park and hold a meeting there. However, the moment we reached Town Hall, we were all detained. There were 22 buses completely packed with protestors, and we were taken to Adugodi. We were finally released by 2.30 pm," said KV Bhat, convener of the Joint Committee of Trade Unions.

Unions that took part included the All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), along with several farmer organisations.

Apart from repeal of the four labour codes and reinstatement of MGNREGA, unions demanded withdrawal of the Land Acquisition Act and Seeds Act, higher minimum wages, and a halt to electricity privatisation.

S Varalakshmi, general secretary of Karnataka State CITU, termed the strike a "success".

"Production units across the city were impacted, especially in industrial areas such as Bidadi, Jigani, Dobbspet and Peenya. The strike impacted companies like Coca Cola, Toyota, Bosch, and Volvo, among many others. Apart from this, employees from BSNL and LIC also took part in the strike," she told *DH*.

ASHA and Anganwadi workers also joined the protests.

"Ahead of the strike, Labour Minister Santosh Lad called for a meeting with trade unions at Vikasa Soudha, where we discussed the labour codes with him. He has informed us that his department will be constituting another committee, in which union members will be included, to further discuss the way forward for the labour codes. He is also looking into the minimum wages, and assured us that he will take it up with the chief minister," added Bhat.

Officials from the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association said the strike did not affect their members.

Sources also said there was no major impact in the Peenya Industrial Area.

Sustainability summit opens at CHRIST Yeshwantpur

BENGALURU, DHNS: The SDG Cell of CHRIST (Deemed to be) University, Yeshwantpur, inaugurated its three-day sustainability summit, 'Prithvi 2026', on Thursday to promote awareness and responsible action around Sustainable Development Goals.

'Prithvi 2026' will feature EnviroPitch, EcoThon, Eco-Branding and other sustainability-focused programmes and interactive sessions. The summit aims to encourage students to engage with innovative solutions to build a more equitable and environmentally conscious future.

Associate Director Dr Fr Biju KC, Dean Dr Juby Thomas, Yogesh Shinde, Founder and CEO of Bamboo India, SDG Coordinator Dr Kalpana P, faculty and students on the inaugural day of 'Pruthvi 2026' on Thursday.

Suburban rail: 263 get insurance in Banaswadi

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rail Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka Limited (K-RIDE), which is constructing the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP), distributed social security term insurance certificates and extended social security benefits to project-affected persons (PAPs), slum dwellers, squatters and the workforce along Corridor 2 on Wednesday.

K-RIDE Managing Director Lakshman Singh distributed the certificates at an orientation programme on skill development and livelihood restoration at Yeshwantpur.

He stated that the BSRP not only aims to improve urban mobility, reduce congestion and emissions, and enhance regional connectivity but also ensures fair compensation, social security coverage and livelihood restoration for project-affected communities.

During project preparation, a detailed census and socio-economic survey conducted under the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) had identified 263 project-affected persons, including 100 notified slum dwellers and 163 squatters, along a 1.2-km stretch of Corridor-2 at Lingarajapuram and Banaswadi.

With the support of the Karnataka Slum Development Board, eligible people were provided financial assistance following consultations and disclosure of entitlements and voluntarily self-relocated after receiving due support, he added.

At the programme, resource persons from Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) oriented the participants on skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities in which they can enrol and how K-RIDE can support in it further as part of the RAP implementation.

Bhaskar Chakravarthy, convenor, State Level Bankers Committee, explained the social security benefits and insurance schemes of the state and central governments linked to the PAPs.

Post-resettlement steps

As part of post-resettlement measures under the RAP, affected households and the project workforce have been linked to Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, providing insurance coverage of up to Rs 6 lakh per person.

DH
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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, Dated: 10.02.2026. Following E-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata - 700 014 for the following works: **Tender No.: TN-182-25-26**, **Name of the Work:** Improvement of Kolkata yard by casual renewal of rails, fittings, sleepers, TTR, deep screening, packing, SKV welding, rail painting, muck removal, repairing of washing pit line and other ancillary works under Senior Section Engineer (P. Way)/ Chitpur in the jurisdiction of under Assistant Engineer/Ballygunge under Divisional Engineer[HQ]/Sealdah. **Tender value:** Rs. 81,98,050.85. **EMD:** Rs. 1,64,000/-. **Completion period for the work:** 12 (Twelve) months. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 10.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender:** 10.03.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in.** The bidding is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditons of Contract 2022, cost of e-Tender Form is Nil.

SDAH-390/2025-26

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Flying Institute
A Society Regd. Under Department of Cabinet Secretariat & Vigilance (Civil Aviation Division)
State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport Road, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail-jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in

Tender Ref. No.- Crew Training-26/2025-JFI-89Date :- 10.02.2026

GeM Auction Cancellation Notice

Please refer to Notice No- Crew Training-26/2025-JFI-51, dated-22.01.2026, GeM Auction Notice Numer-29844 and PR No-371444 regarding EoI on PPP Mode Establishment and operation of full fledged Air Hostess, Crew Ground Training/ Handler & Establishment of MRO.

The above EoI is hereby cancelled as per para-12 of the published auction.

Sd/-
(Piyusha Shalina Dona Minz)
Treasurer-cum-Under Secretary
Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR 372847 (Civil Aviation)25-26*D

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con)/ II/Garden Reach, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works. Following tenders have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenders will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Sl. No. & e-Tender Notice No.; Brief Description of Works; Approx. Cost; Bid Security** respectively : **(1) 4598-GRC-CE-C-II-28-2025, dated 11.02.2026;** Construction of 04 nos. type-III quarters, 08 nos. type-II quarters, camp office at Chandil and Damodar, Officer rest House accommodation at Purulia in connection with Chandil-Burnpur third line project under the Dy CE/Con/Adra; ₹ 20.81 Crore; ₹ 11,90,600/- **(2) 4613-GRC-CE-C-II-02-2026, dated 11.02.2026;** Yard remodeling work of Murga Mahadev Road, Banspani & Jaroli and construction of formation, extension of minor bridges, Foot Over Bridge, platform, E1 Building, approach road, side drain, retaining wall etc. including track linking, supply & spreading of ballast, other miscellaneous works in connection with proposed 3rd & 4th line between Dangoaposi-Jaroli station under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/Tatanagar of S.E. Railway Construction Organisation; ₹ 85.82 Crore; ₹ 44,41,200/-. **(3) 4614-GRC-CE-C-II-03-2026, dated 11.02.2026;** Yard remodeling work of Dangoaposi, Padapahar, Jamkundia & Deojhar and construction of formation, extension of minor bridges, Foot Over Bridge, platform, E1Building, approach road, side drain etc. including track linking, supply & spreading of ballast, other miscellaneous works in connection with proposed 3rd & 4th line between Dangoaposi-Jaroli station under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/Tatanagar of S.E.Railway Construction Organisation; ₹ 88.21 Crore; ₹ 45,60,700/-. **Completion period:** 24 months for each. **Closing Date:** 11.03.2026 for each. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B.** : Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-1180)**

Ex-councillor alleges fraud in 10-acre land khata

BENGALURU, DHNS: A former councillor has lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta against four revenue officers of Hemmigepura, under the Bengaluru West Municipal Corporation, alleging that they issued an 'A' khata for a 10.20-acre plot in violation of norms.

The complaint states that the alleged illegal action has caused revenue losses of several crores to the government.

The land falls under Survey Nos 18/1A4, 18/1A5, 18/1A6, 18/1A7, 18/1A8 and 18/1A9 of Mallasandra village in Uttarahalli Hobli.

NR Ramesh, also a BJP functionary, alleged that officials created fake property identification (PID) numbers to issue the 'A' khata certificate, though the plot lacks statutory approvals.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Feb 28 deadline for state-registered buses to meet safety measures

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Transport Department has set a February 28, 2026, deadline for all buses — both regular and sleeper — registered in Karnataka to comply with safety measures.

Under Rule 125(C) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, buses must conform to the Automotive Industry Standards, Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval AIS-052/153, and Requirements for Sleeper Coach Buses AIS-119. They also must have public address systems.

The department has issued these directives:

The partition door installed behind the driver in all sleeper buses must be removed;

Sliders fitted to sleeper berths shall be removed;

All buses registered after April 1, 2019, must be equipped with Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS);

The transport of commercial goods in passenger buses, including sleeper buses, is strictly prohibited under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

The operation of buses constructed through unauthorised extension of chassis shall be discontinued with immediate effect;

V Kaveri Travels' Bengaluru-Hyderabad bus that caught fire, killing 19 passengers.

Every bus must display a design layout drawing, clearly indicating emergency exists, the location of fire extinguishers and roof hatches, in a place easily visible and readable to passengers;

As per AIS:119, buses up to 12 metres in length must have at least four emergency exits while those longer than 12 metres must have at least five;

In buses constructed with body structure conforming to AIS:052 and 119, roof-mounted luggage carriers and ladders must be removed;

All sleeper buses must be fitted with fire extinguishers of at least 10 kg;

Bus body-building agencies must possess valid certificates under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, and only vehicles manufactured by such certified agencies will be registered;

Vehicles shall be registered only after verification of certificate forms 22 and 22A issued by approved testing agencies.

Commissioner for Transport and Road Safety AM Yogeesh stated that vehicle owners who fail to comply with these directions will face strict action under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and the rules framed thereunder.

The directive came after a series of fatal accidents involving private buses.

On October 24, 2025, a Bengaluru-Hyderabad V Kaveri Travels AC sleeper bus — originally built as a seater but modified later without proper safety checks — burst into flames near Kurnool, killing 19 passengers.

The crew were not trained in handling fire incidents and passengers were unaware where the emergency exits were. The bus was also carrying commercial goods in the form of 234 smartphones, whose lithium batteries exploded one after another.

On December 24, nine passengers were killed when a fuel tanker jumped the divider and rammed into a Bengaluru-Gokarna non-AC sleeper operated by Seabird Travels.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

ई–अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा सं0 :– 05/2025-26/RWD/EE/HAZARIBAG दिनांक :– 12.02.2026

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है ।

कार्य की विवरणी :–

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपया में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
				अंक में	अक्षर में	
1	RWD/HAZ/CSR/ 19/2025-26	केरेडारी	लवनिया मोड़ से जोरदाग रोड तक पथ एवं गार्डवाल निर्माण कार्य (लं0–2.000 कि0मी0)।	4,99,77,900/-	चार करोड़ निन्यानबे लाख सतहत्तर हजार नौ सौ रुपये मात्र	09 (नौ) माह

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 20.02.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 27.02.2026 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक ।
4. निविदा खोलने की, तिथि, एवं समय–28.02.2026 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे ।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग ।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0–06546–265286 ।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,
कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग ।

PR 372889 (Rural Work Department) 25-26 (D)

Budget: BC body seeks Rs 10K cr allocation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Backward Castes (BC) Federation on Thursday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to allocate Rs 10,000 crore for the Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Department in the upcoming 2026-27 Budget.

A large delegation of backward class leaders, members of the federation and others met Siddaramaiah as part of pre-budget consultations. Over 230 members are said to have met the chief minister.

"Though Rs 10,000 crore was sought for BCW department in the 2025-26 budget, only Rs 3,514.08 crore was allotted. Since backward classes comprise over 70% of the state population, at least Rs 10,000 should be allotted," they said.

The Federation insists that the Madhusudan Naik-led backward classes commission should release the report of social and educational survey, and subsequently increase reservation share for backward classes from the existing 32% to 50%.

Of all corporations coming under the backward classes department, the federation has sought Rs 1,000 crore for D Devaraj Urs corporation, and Rs 500 crore each for all others.

TB Dam: Installation of three gates completed

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT), DHNS: The installation of crest gates numbered 19 and 32 at the Tungabhadra (TB) Dam was completed on Thursday.

With this, the installation work of three gates out of a total of 33 has now been finished.

At present, the installation work is in progress for gates 1, 4, 11, 17, 20, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 33 (a total of 10 gates). So far, 15 old gates have been cut and removed, and cutting work on two more gates is currently underway.

Sources from the Tungabhadra Board said that all work is progressing according to plan.

Kunigal stud farm to be leased out to Bangalore Turf Club

Club expected to shift from Bengaluru in two years

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state Cabinet on Thursday decided to lease the 110 acres and 20 guntas of land at the Kunigal stud farm to Bengaluru Turf Club for a period of 29 years.

H K Patil

Addressing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "The Cabinet has decided to lease 101 acres and 24 guntas of land in block A and 8 acres and 36 guntas of land in block B (overall 110 acres and 20 guntas of land) to the Bengaluru Turf Club for a period of 29 years"

The turf club is expected to vacate the current location in Bengaluru in two years. The existing turf club area will be protected as a lung space.

Stating that the club had not paid the dues to the government since January 1, 2010, Patil noted that there has been litigation between the turf club and the state government, which has gone till the Supreme Court.

"The government had urged the turf club to pay 2% of its annual turnover in addition to the dues that haven't been paid," the minister said, adding that it was one of the preconditions being made by the government.

Budget on March 6

The state Cabinet decided on Thursday that the Karnataka State Budget will be tabled on March 6. The 14-day full-fledged Budget session will be held from March 6 to March 27. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to table his record-extending 17th Budget.

Shakti scheme cards

The Cabinet also decided to issue smart cards for the beneficiaries of the Shakti scheme — one of the five flagship guarantee schemes of the Congress government that provides free travel to women in state-owned non-premium buses. When asked about when the smart cards will be rolled out, Patil said: "We haven't given any specific date. Some preparations need to be made, after which it will be brought into force."

Law dept to study SIR

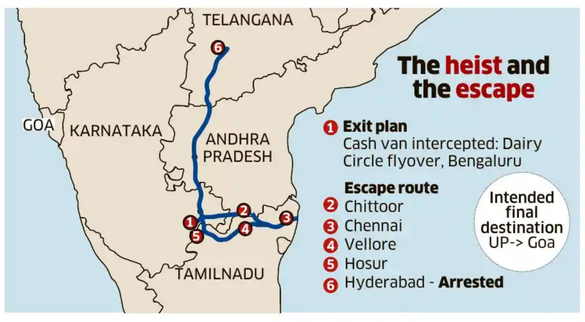
The minister noted that the Cabinet had urged the Law Department to study the SIR matter in detail and give its inputs.

"Cabinet seriously discussed the SIR. Some methods being used elsewhere (in other states) were discussed. Legal issues were also discussed. Cabinet has urged the law department to study it in detail."

Other decisions

The Cabinet also decided to implement a One-time Settlement (OTS) scheme related to stone mining by amending rules framed in 1994. It was also decided that the local MLA has to be invited while inaugurating buildings of high courts and other subordinate courts built under government grants, if there are no pending court cases against the MLA.

The Cabinet decided that referral subsidies will be provided at government rates to patients going to four reputed private medical establishments in Bengaluru (St John Medical College, M S Ramaiah Medical College, Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) and Dr Ambedkar Medical College Institute) on a trial basis for one year.



ATM van robbers planned to splurge Rs 7.11-cr loot on Goa casinos: Charge sheet

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The CMS Info Systems van was carrying a large sum.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

The nine-member gang that pulled off the Rs 7.11-crore ATM van heist in the city last year intended to go to Goa on their escape route and splurge the crime proceeds lavishly on casinos.

The findings were part of the 1,328-page charge sheet filed by the Siddapura police in a Bengaluru court on Thursday. *DH* has reviewed the details.

The nine have been charged with dacoity, wrongful restraint/confinement, causing disappearance of evidence, criminal conspiracy, criminal intimidation and other relevant offences.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Lokesh B Jagalasar said the probe, by the Jayanagar Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and his team, was completed with a scientific approach.

On November 19, 2025, six members of the gang, posing as RBI officials, waylaid the cash van of CMS Info Systems in southern Bengaluru, threatened the crew and fled with the large sum. Police cracked the case in 54 hours and recovered most of the money.

J Xavier, a former employee of CMS Info Systems and accused number 1, was the main planner and conspirator. He knew the "company like the back of his hand".

"The robbers mapped a clear route of escape: they would exit Karnataka, enter Andhra Pradesh, then either go to Uttar Pradesh and then to Goa or directly to Goa," a senior officer said, citing the charge sheet.

Their end goal was entering Goa and spending the money in casinos and living lavishly. Some of them had run up loans through failed businesses and gambling, which they were planning to clear. However, police arrested them before they could execute their plan.

"After leaving Bengaluru, some went to Chittoor, then Chennai, Vellore and Hosur, then to Hyderabad," the officer said.

The suspects randomly chose a registration plate for their getaway vehicle — a Toyota Innova. The number plate belonged to a Maruti Suzuki Swift owned by PB Gangadhar, 78, a resident of eastern Bengaluru, who was totally unaware of its misuse.

Annappa Naik, a constable posted at the Govindapura police station and accused number 2, also played a key role, using his access as a policeman. He provided "technical, backend and moral support", as per the charge sheet.

Ravi, accused number 4, played a key role in executing the plan, while Gopal Prasad alias Gopi, accused number 3, provided logistical information as he was a fleet/vehicle in-charge at CMS Info Systems, the charge sheet noted.

"This is one of the cases where we mainly relied on digital evidence like voice records, CCTV footage, phone call records, location and mapping details, etc.," the officer quoted previously said.

The investigation team compiled a case file containing 129 pieces of evidence to substantiate the charges: statements from eyewitnesses, crucial technical evidence and forensic evidence, including fingerprints identifying the accused.

The other accused are Naveen, Nelson, Rakesh, Dinesh and Jinesh.

Biklu Shiva murder case: SC refuses anticipatory bail to BJP MLA

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to consider an anticipatory bail plea filed by BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in connection with the Biklu Shiva murder case.

"You are a public person. You should go rather courageously that I am ready to face any kind of interrogation," a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the MLA. Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra and Additional Advocate General Nishanth Patil appearing for the government, sought MLA's custodial interrogation.

Byrathi Basavaraj

The bench said the legislator should move a plea for regular bail instead.

"Anticipatory bail for murder case, we should be extremely surprised. Cheating, misappropriation...general activity is understandable. Now, the follow up is murder," the bench wondered.

Rohatgi contended the MLA has nothing to do: he was not there and it's a property dispute in which he was not involved. He said the property was also not in his constituency. The court said, it was alleged the victim's mother was present at the spot when her son was shot dead. Rohatgi, however, argued that she had not named or said she has seen his client at the scene.

The court said, these land grabbers normally have political protection.

"The public perception is that they get some protection," the bench said.

The bench said, "This person goes to the spot, displays his GPA. This Jagdish comes and asks him to hand over the GPA. The quarrel takes place and he is gunned down. Now, whatever is allegation, correct or incorrect, it is matter of investigation."

The court said the allegation is that the accused was in touch with the petitioner and he had fled to Sri Lanka.

The bench said it would have granted anticipatory bail, but he has taken evasive stand that he doesn't know prime accused at all, and petitioner's call records showed otherwise. Rohatgi finally withdrew petition.

The bench said, "The counsel for petitioner seeks and is permitted to withdraw this petition with liberty to the petitioner to apply for regular bail after his surrender. We request that the court concerned decide application for regular bail expeditiously."

The SC clarified it hasn't expressed an opinion on merits.

Byrathi Basavaraj arrested at Bengaluru airport

BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj was arrested upon his arrival at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Thursday evening, hours after the SC denied him anticipatory bail in the Biklu Shiva murder case.

The KR Puram legislator was apprehended by a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) team around 7 pm and is being taken to the agency's headquarters on Palace Road for further procedures. The CID produced him before a magistrate to seek his custodial interrogation, a senior officer said.

Basavaraj has been listed as accused number 5 in the FIR related to the murder of 40-year-old Shivakumar alias Biklu Shiva, a history-sheeter.

Shiva was hacked to death by a gang of assailants near his home on Meanee Avenue Road in Bharathinagar on July 15 last year. Over a dozen suspects have been arrested. Police believe Basavaraj was the main conspirator in the case.

The MLA had fled to Ahmedabad after CID issued a lookout notice for him in Dec and had been in hiding since.

A CID officer said investigators had been tracking his movements and lay in waiting to arrest him at the airport.

CoE in Green Skills set up in B'luru college

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Higher Education department has established 'Centre of Excellence in Green Skills and Applied AI for Climate Action' on the campus of Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Technological Institute here.

Inaugurating the Centre, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said, "It is the first such centre in India."

"The centre will empower over one lakh students in 10 years starting with 20,000 youths in first year, with at least 10,000 participants gaining access to jobs, internships that can help them enhance skills required in terms of climate-ready talent for India's green economy. The centre will be open for students from across all institutions in the state," the minister said.

It has been established with a view to promote green skills for future job roles in green economy by 2030. The state, in coordination with Microsoft, 1M1B and MeitY Startup Hub, has established the centre.

The department has released a QR Code for students to register for internship this year. They can utlise AI-powered computers and pitch new ideas for real world problems, guided by teachers and trained by 1M1B and Microsoft.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Signal, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & On behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 05.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Rehabilitation of VRLA type batteries of various UPS from Salt Lake sector V to Phoolbagan including OCC and DCC in Green Line (Phase-I) of Metro Railway, Kolkata along with some allied works in Green Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata under SSE/Sig/CPD/IC. **Tender Value (Rs.) :** ₹ 51,66,308.53, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** ₹ 1,03,300, **Completion Period :** 12 Months. The Tender can be viewed at website: **https://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

Open Tender Notice No.: S&T/Work/11-2026

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Metro Railway, Kolkata

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Signal, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 05.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Rehabilitation and re-installation of various signalling gears like signals, point machines, cables, location boxes and allied works in KCWC to KDSW including KNCS in Blue line of Metro Railway, Kolkata under SSE/Sig/KNAP/IC. **Tender Value:** Rs. 84,19,507.92. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,68,400/-. **Completion Period:** 12 Months. The tender can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Work/09-2026

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Government of Meghalaya
Pasteur Hills, Shillong

Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel No. 0364-2591510 / 94851 06663

No.DHSME&R/SMC/Tender/V/06/2025-26/520 Dtd: Shillong, the 11th February, 2026

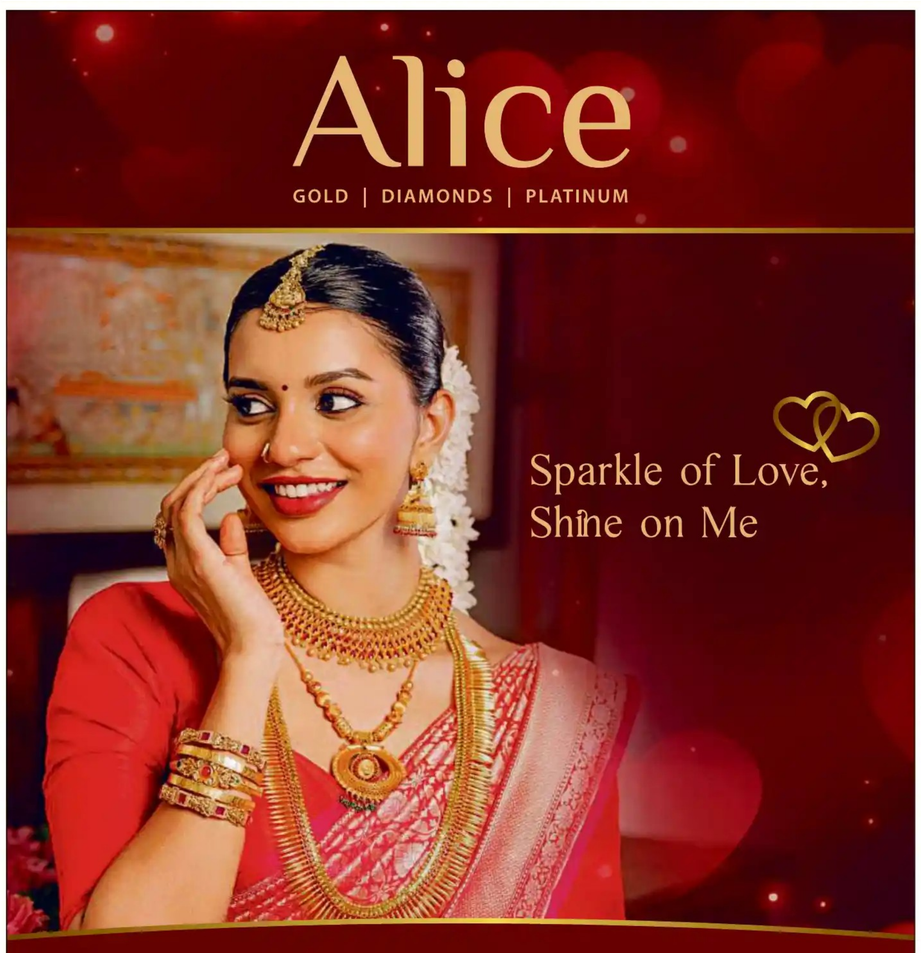
EXTENSION NOTICE

In continuation of the NIT No. DHSME&R/SMC/TENDER/IV/20/2025/10033 dated 10th December, 2025 for procurement of equipment/items for the **SKILL LABORATORY**. Shillong Medical College, it is hereby notified that the last date and time for submission of bids is extended up to **20th February, 2026** at 15:00 hours, on account of limited submission of bids.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME)
Meghalaya, Pasteur Hills, Shillong

MIPR No. : 2802
Dated on : 11/02/2026



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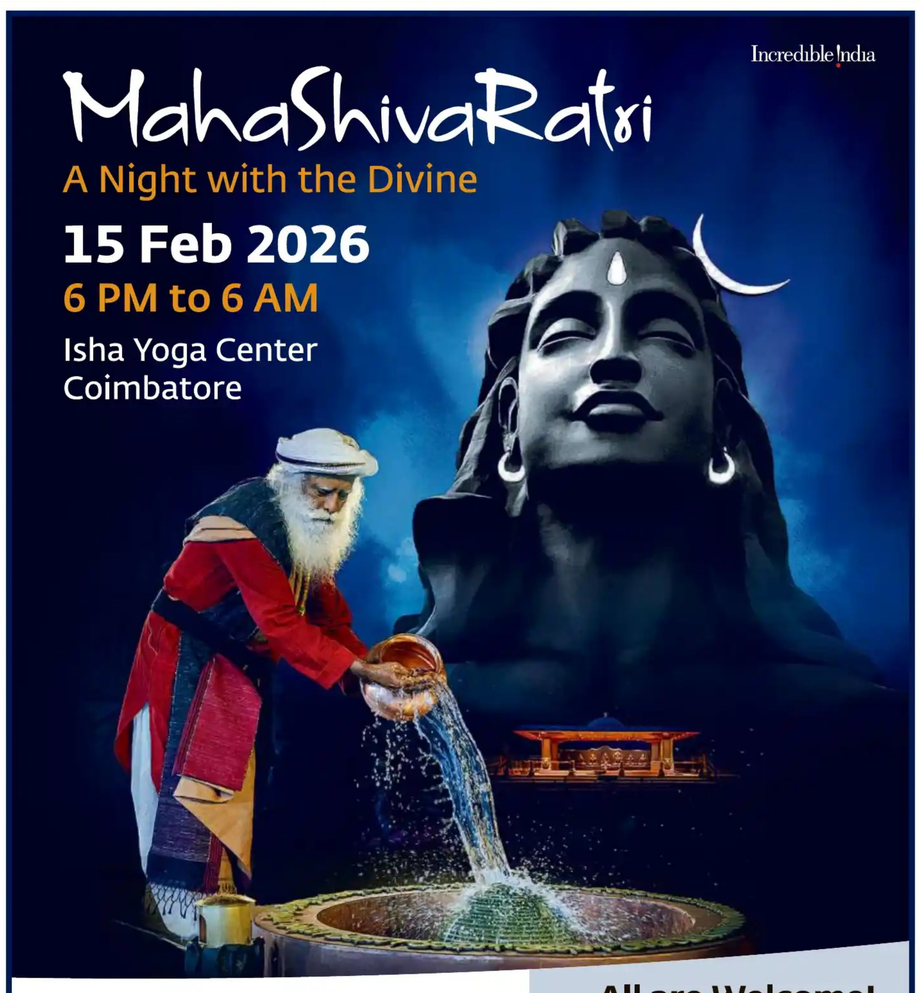

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Restaurants mulling charge for overstaying customers

They say groups, especially from the realty sector, hold long meetings without ordering much and also take up parking space

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

A hoteliers' body in Bengaluru is considering collecting a fee from groups that linger at restaurants for long business meetings, without ordering much. Real estate deal-makers form the majority of these groups, they say. Restaurant staff say agents and clients occupy tables for hours, ordering just coffee or tea and most times, two people share one cup. Meanwhile, other diners are left waiting for seats, or simply walk away.

"Right now, it's only a proposal. Each restaurant will decide if and how much to charge. It will not be a penalty, but a fee for using the premises," says P C Rao, president, Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association. On a trial basis, about 20 member restaurants have decided to put up notices discouraging such meetings. The aim is to instil caution, not make money, he clarifies.

The proposal comes after a viral post by X user Shobhit Bakliwal, who shared a photo of a notice from an unidentified Bengaluru eatery. It read: "No meetings allowed. Meetings lasting more than one hour will be charged Rs 1,000 per hour."

Shivalli Restaurant, Jayanagar, has put up three notices in the dining hall saying its premises are not meant for 'paperwork'. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Small outlets affected

Rao says such meetings have increased in real estate hotspots such as K R Puram, Whitefield, Hoskote, Nelamangala, Mysore Road and Yelahanka. "When real estate discussions don't go well, there can be disappointment and even loud quarrels. These groups not only occupy tables for long periods but also take up parking space," he says.

The manager of a restaurant in Devanahalli says they sometimes suffer a 5-8% loss in business during peak hours due to such meetings. "Now we ask them to sit in our party hall if it is empty," he says. Rao says the issue mainly affects restaurants with limited seating — not darshinis, outlets with communal dining, coworking cafes, or bars. Such transactions are also commonplace at hotels near government offices, says Arun Adiga of Vidyarthi Bhavan.

Duration is not the only concern. "There are worries about anti-social elements using restaurants. In one or two cases, police have had to visit the premises, which brings a bad name to the eatery," Rao says. Some establishments, like A2B in HSR Layout, have also stuck notices advising against political discussions.

Agents without offices

At Shivalli Restaurant in Jayanagar, three Kannada notices state that the dining hall is not meant for "paperwork". They were pasted two months ago after a nearby cafe, popular for coworking and meetings, shut down. Its patrons now flock to the 80-seater eatery.

"Regular diners spend 25-30 minutes and place orders worth Rs 150-200 per person. In contrast, groups that come for meetings arrive in batches of four to 10, sit for over an hour and a half, and spend only Rs 20-25 per head. These meetings are mostly about real estate, or families counselling couples over disputes or divorces," says owner Girishekar Kalkur.

He says the notices haven't helped, but they "cannot take harsh steps either, as such people could be potential customers". "Overstaying becomes an issue only on weekends and evenings, when footfall is high. If we ask them to vacate, they order another by-two coffee or a glass of juice and continue the discussion," he adds.

Nisarga Grand on Nrupathunga Road put up a similar notice around five years ago, after customers demanded proof that sitting for hours was against the rules. Owner Krishnaraj S P is now mulling a Rs 500 fee for overstaying. The outlet is located near the Reserve Bank of India, the police headquarters and the courts, and has ample parking space.

"Our hotel has become a 'timepass' place. Around 1,500 real estate agents, contractors and advocates visit daily. The problem is that smaller agents don't want to spend on office space. When we ask them to order more or leave, they take offence. They say things like they have already ordered, or they've been coming here for 20 years," he says.

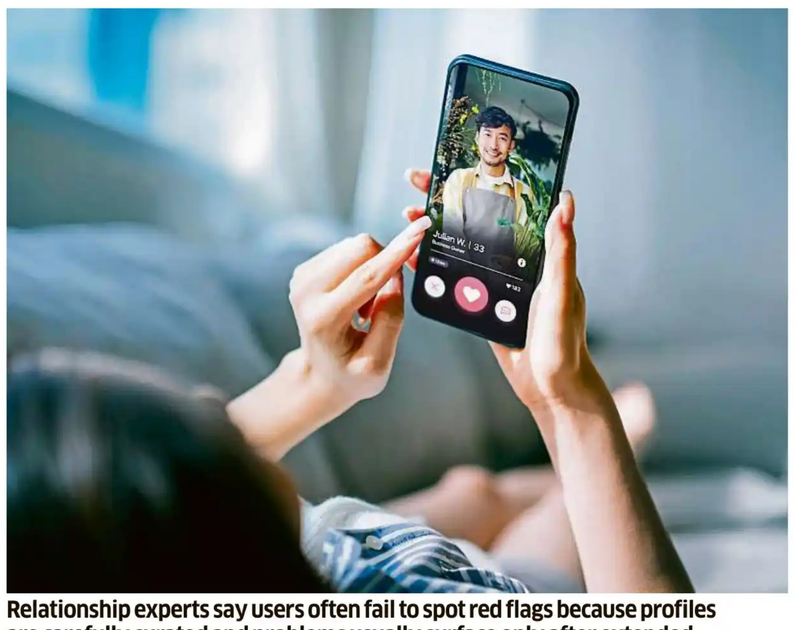
In contrast, Sri Lakshmi Vaibhava in Whitefield has seen a drop in such meetings since they barred real estate discussions inside the service hall. While crowd movement has improved, business has not increased significantly, the manager says.

'Boosts our aura'

Aftab Ali, a real estate advisor from Yeshwanthpur, says meetings are held at project sites or restaurants, depending on the client's preference. But meeting at good restaurants enhances their "aura" and strengthens their "negotiating power" during deals, he says. "It also boosts the image of smaller brokers present. And in a good setting, one thinks more clearly," he adds.

Two brokers say restaurants offer a pleasant setting to welcome clients, and often serve as convenient meeting points.

But restaurateurs are caught in a dilemma. They say tracking each guest's duration to levy extra charges is impractical, and asking people to order more or leave mid-discussion feels awkward. Adiga says it ultimately comes down to customers being mindful of others and recognising that restaurants, like coworking spaces, are businesses.



Relationship experts say users often fail to spot red flags because profiles are carefully curated and problems usually surface only after extended conversations. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Love bombing and other red flags on dating apps

The platforms have introduced AI, no-photo profiles and in-app scanners to plug non-genuine users

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Dating app users in Bengaluru have reported a rise in impersonation, extortion, and people misrepresenting their relationship intentions on these platforms. The teams behind the apps acknowledge the issue and say they are actively introducing stronger safety controls.

Relationship experts say users often fail to spot red flags because profiles are carefully curated and problems usually surface only after extended conversations. Dylan, a Hinge user, agrees. He says that after two weeks of chatting on the app, his match began asking for gifts and money. When he examined the profile more closely, he realised it was a catfish account (where someone creates a completely fake persona). He reported and blocked the account.

Look for inconsistencies

Psychologist Kala Balasubramanian says inconsistencies between the intentions people declare on their profile and how they behave are a major red flag, especially if they become defensive or aggressive when questioned about it. College student Khushi U says she has matched with people who claimed they were looking for a long-term relationship but later admitted they were only interested in something physical, and vice versa. "Sometimes someone says they want an exclusive relationship, but later it turns out they prefer a non-monogamous arrangement," she says.

Love bombing is another concern, says Kala. This refers to someone professing love very early on. Not respecting boundaries is another warning sign. Kala explains, "How long you want to wait before meeting, whether three weeks or three months, is your choice. If someone agrees to your boundaries initially but later pressures you, that's a sign (something is off)."

Psychologist Mala Sridhar adds that the use of repeated phrases such as 'Don't you trust me?' or 'If you trust me...' is not healthy. "Trust is not an obligation. If someone pushes your boundaries with such statements, they may be trying to manipulate you," she says.

Kala further warns that if you feel fearful about meeting in person, getting physical, or sharing personal information, it is important to reassess the relationship. "If you are making choices out of the fear that they will stop talking to you or leave if you don't comply, that is a red flag," she says.

Safety features

On Aisle, users must complete selfie verification to earn a verified badge on their profile. Founder Able Joseph explains that users are required to use an in-app feature to scan their faces. Paid users can also see how many people their match is talking to. This can help if someone claims they are dating exclusively but is still interacting with others, he explains.

Tinder's 'Face Check' requires users to upload a photo or video, which is then matched with their profile picture. The app also offers a safety guide called the 'School of Swipe' to help users navigate the platform safely, adds its communications lead Aditi Shorewal.

Schmooze uses artificial intelligence to filter offensive content and alert users about inappropriate behaviour, says founder and CEO Vidya Madhavan.

BumpedIn does not display user photographs. Instead, it matches users based on shared experiences and interests, says founder Aravinth Prabu. The app verifies a user's identity through an Instagram link provided by them. It also states that users should chat within the app until they feel comfortable taking the conversation elsewhere.

POPCORN

Crash course

Another Lamborghini accident, and it looks like another drunk brat claiming, in the face of video evidence, that he wasn't at the wheel at all. But why so much drama? Has the punishment for crashing fancy cars into less affluent road users gone up from a 300-word essay to a 500-word one? And in any case, for writing, there's ChatGPT these days...

EVENTS

Musical eve
Mitra Foundation, Pune, in association with Sapthak Bangalore presents 'Swar Utsav' at Kincha Auditorium, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road, on February 15, 5 pm. It will feature a santoor recital by Shantanu Gokhale and a vocal recital by Sanjeev Abhyankar. Entry free.

Film screening
The Kashmiri-Hindi film 'An Orphanage of Memories', will be screened at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on February 15, 5.30 pm. It will be followed by a discussion with the film's director Rayit Hashmat Qazi. Entry free. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

On stage
'Madonna', a play by Shruti Parasuraman, will be staged at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, on February 14, 7 pm. Check @attagalatta on Instagram.

Solar light for 165 low-income homes

Each house has been equipped with LED lights, pedestal fans, and mobile charging ports

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

About 645 residents of a low-income neighbourhood in Uttarahalli now have access to electricity in their homes. The inhabitants of the area lived in complete darkness post sunset up until two months ago.

The NGO identified households with school- going kids for the project.

It is part of Project Chirag - Solar Village Initiative by Aahwahan Foundation, a Bengaluru-based NGO.

A total of 165 houses have been lit up through the initiative, which has installed solar panels for each home. Some of the residents have been living in the underserved community for 30 years. "The houses did not have concrete roofs. They were made from asbestos, tin or tarpaulin. So, we had to mount solar panels on poles near each home and instal wiring for each household," explains Braja Kishore Pradhan, founder of the NGO.

The houses have been equipped with four LED lights (two 10W and two 5W), an 18W pedestal fan and mobile charging ports each. They are powered by a 150Wp solar panel, a 120Ah solar tubular battery, and a 10A charge controller. "With 48 hours of backup, families now have access to 3-4 hours of lighting and up to 8 hours of fan usage per cycle, depending on sunlight and consumption patterns," he shares.

The team identified and prioritised houses with school-going children, senior citizens and pregnant women for the project. "We were shocked to learn that there were houses in Bengaluru with no electricity," he recalls.

Forty-year-old Murali S, a construction worker, is one beneficiary of the scheme. He lives with his wife and two children. "Earlier, our kids would go to the temple nearby to do their homework by the temple lights. They do not have to do that anymore," he says. The NGO also installed streetlights throughout the neighbourhood. "The lanes are not safe after dark. Sometimes we spot snakes in those lanes. The streetlights have made it easier to step out of the house at night," he states.

One-day inclusion conference on Saturday

A one-day conference will focus on inclusivity and diversity in art and cultural spaces.

Titled 'Beyond headcount diversity', it is organised by the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP). This is its third edition.

The event will include panel discussions, theatre performances, talks and interactive sessions.

The day begins with talks by Arnika Ahldag of MAP and Taha Haaziq, the secretary of Goa's State Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

Some other interesting sessions include 'Understanding conflict through an anti-oppressive lens' by Alternative Justice and 'Poster politics: Caste in Indian cinema's imagery' by The Blue Dawn.

A deaf-led inclusive walk-through of the museum will also be held. The day concludes with a theatre performance, 'The song of ghetto' by Jangama Collective.

February 14, 9.30 am to 7.30 pm, at MAP, Kasturba Road. For details, look up map-india.org.

Weekend lecture to explore identity and belonging in Bengaluru

The fifth edition of the 'Ravi Sondhi Spirit of Bangalore Lecture' will be held this Saturday. It will highlight questions of identity and belonging in the city. Place-based storyteller and memory archivist Aliyeh Rizvi will speak on 'Being Bangalore: Reflections on Belonging'.

Aditya Sondhi, organiser of the event, says the talk will centre on Aliyeh's perspective on "the various elements of belonging to a city and its identity", drawing from her work as an archivist and oral historian. The lecture will look at how a city's "signature identity" influences its residents and, in turn, how residents influence the character of the city.

The lecture series started in 2022, with four lectures held so far. Each edition has focused on different aspects of the city's cultural and social life. It has featured speakers such as retired IAS officer Chiranjiv Singh, historian Ramachandra Guha, theatrician Arundhati Nag, and journalist Stanley Carvalho.

February 14, 6 pm, at Lady Jehangir Kothari Hall, Queen's Road. Entry free. For more details, call 98454 11859.

B'luru techie creates AI tool to plan your buffet plate

BuffetGPT will help diners navigate wedding spreads with a personalised plan

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Last week, a Bengaluru-based techie posted on X about how Indian wedding buffets often leave guests spoilt for choice yet full of regret, with many piling their plates too soon or missing the best dishes. His solution, BuffetGPT, is an AI tool that scans a buffet and gives diners a "game plan" on what to eat, skip, and how much to consume. The post has since received 1.8 million views and 6,900 likes.

"It came purely out of frustration," says 27-year-old Panathur resident Pankaj Tanwar, who got the idea at a friend's haldi ceremony. "I built it in a day and tested it at the wedding reception the next day. It worked well," he says. Tanwar tried around 13 to 14 dishes at the wedding, following the AI tool's plan. "A funny outcome was when it recommended that I avoid the raita as it might fill me up. However, the spread included biryani, so it didn't make sense to have it without raita," he recalls.

(Above) Screenshots from the AI tool. (Left) Pankaj Tanwar.

How it works

The tool uses computer vision and pretrained models to detect dishes laid out at a buffet, through photographs uploaded to it. "When dishes are labelled, detection becomes easier," he adds. Tanwar has primarily used the vision model YOLO v8 for object detection in the tool.

The tool essentially creates a personalised eating plan by factoring in personal data. "Users can add details such as their weight, daily calorie intake, and food preferences. Dishes are assigned a rank, which determines the order of consumption. Suitable quantities are also recommended," he explains. Talking about technical challenges, he says that "generic large language model hallucination" (where output contains inaccuracies) occurs when trying to identify dishes from a regional cuisine it is not familiar with.

What next?

Though it began as a side project, the online attention it received has pushed Tanwar to develop it further, he says. "Netizens are requesting features like calorie and macro tracking. Also, the concept could extend to restaurant spreads and food festivals," he adds.

Despite the success of his post, it also received some flak, with an X user writing, "Thanks for finding a solution to a problem no one had."

Currently in its alpha stage, BuffetGPT is expected to go online for public trials by next week. *For details, check @the2ndfloorguy on X.*

CITY MIX

Walkathon

Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) is celebrating Valentine's Day with a walkathon at Cubbon Park. The walk will begin at the park's Kasturba Road entrance, and participants can choose to cover with 3 or 5 km. The walk will be followed by breakfast. On February 14, 8 am at Cubbon Park. Entry free, registration is mandatory. To register, contact 77190 04333.

Coffee festival

The India International Coffee Festival (IICF) is currently in its second edition. The festival, which began on Thursday, will feature numerous stalls, workshops, panel discussions and a competition for baristas and brewers. The stalls offer immersive coffee experiences and demonstrations. Visitors can also sign up for tasting sessions, learn about brewing methods and enjoy live music performances. Other highlights include a latte art arena and cupping sessions where participants will be introduced to rare lots, innovative processing, high-scoring regional coffees, and will hear stories directly from producers and harvest teams. Until February 14, at Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal Palace. Tickets online.

Book launch

T M Krishna

Acclaimed musician and social activist T M Krishna will launch his book 'We, the People of India: Decoding a Nation's Symbols'. He will be in conversation with urban researcher Gautam Bhan and journalist Dhanya Rajendran. In his book, Krishna traces the historical and philosophical origins of these symbols. Together, they will unpack how these symbols were born, what they were meant to represent, and how their meanings have shifted in contemporary India. On Saturday, February 14, 11.30 am, Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Bharat Taxi to enter Bengaluru only by year-end

Auto, cab drivers wary of over saturation of ride aggregator sector

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ramalinga Reddy

With its launch up north last week, the Ministry of Corporation-backed Bharat Taxi has drawn attention nationwide. However, the platform plans to start operations in Bengaluru only in a year's time.

The platform, developed by The Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd, offers zero-commission, surge-free pricing and collective driver ownership under a cooperative model.

"We aim to benefit both drivers and passengers. There will be zero commission, and in future, drivers will pay only a nominal subscription," said Vivek Pandey, CEO. The surge fee will be "heavily capped".

In 2026, Bharat Taxi aims to expand to 25–30 cities. "We will focus on Tier-1 cities first. Before launching in Bengaluru, we will coordinate with relevant associations. We will also onboard cab, auto, and bike taxi drivers," he said.

The platform plans to integrate the Namma Metro network for multimodal transport. "We aim to launch in Bengaluru by year-end, or within 12 months," he added.

'Too many apps'

The oversaturation of the ride aggregator market will only worsen the situation for commuters, auto and cab drivers said.

"The more apps you bring in, the drivers will continue to download all the apps, and from them, they'll pick and choose the ride requests with the longest distance and the highest value. Instead, the state government needs to step in to ensure that drivers can only log into one platform with one number. Strict regulation is needed in this regard," said C Sampath, general secretary of the Adarsha Auto Union.

In recent years, multiple new platforms, which have tried to penetrate the transport ecosystem in Bengaluru have remained unsuccessful — including Nagara Metred Auto, launched in 2024 and Rook, which was launched in 2022.

No room for bike taxis

The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations has urged the government to roll out Bharat Taxi through integration with the Vahan portal in Karnataka, excluding bike taxis.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy shared that bike taxis would not be allowed on Bharat Taxi, unlike a "full-fledged bike taxi policy is formed".

"This being a government-backed app, we cannot allow bike taxi operations on it unless there is an official bike taxi policy. If the policy is formulated, we can think about it," he told DH.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology: International Childhood Cancer Day; Institute premises; 8.30 am.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Association: International Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Day; RV Dental College; 10 am.

Samana Manaskara Vedike: 'Land Lord-A Discussion'; KY Narayanaswamy, Umashree and others; Channabasappa Hall, Karnataka Secretariat Club, Cubbon Park; 4 pm.

CULTURAL

Kannada and Culture Department: Kala Pratibhotsava; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 10.30 am

MES Kalavedi: Music by Haridasa Deepti, directed by Mysuru Nagamani Srinath; MES Collge, Malleswaram; 6 pm.

Chitkala School of Dance: Nrutya Sambhrama; JC Road; 6.30 pm.

Abhinaya Taranga: Staging of play 'Tara', directed by Raghavendra J; Rangashankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	15.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Feb 13)	6:24 pm
Sunrise (Feb 14)	6:43 am
Moonrise	2:29 am
Moonset	1:55 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Passengers report late-night chaos at airport Uber facility

BENGALURU, DHNS

Passengers slammed mismanagement at the Kempegowda International Airport's Uber facility late Tuesday, saying they waited over an hour despite booking Uber Sedan rides at Terminal-2.

One international passenger booked an Uber Sedan at 11 pm and waited over an hour, but the cab never arrived. Uber staff told him Sedan and UberGo were unavailable, instructing him to book Premium or Comfort rides instead.

Over 30 passengers, including women travelling alone, waited up to 90 minutes. An elderly couple headed to Goraguntepalya was also stranded.

Passengers also alleged irregularities at the pick-up point. A cab driver, who parked elsewhere, allegedly asked a woman to step outside the designated area to board.

In another case, a sedan driver allegedly refused waiting passengers, claiming the ride was booked two days earlier.

Calling it "a scam, not a service", passengers demanded immediate action against Uber, citing severe late-night inconvenience.

Govt steps in

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said he has brought the issue to the notice of the chief secretary, who would take action against the service providers.

Uber statement

An Uber spokesperson said, "We remain committed to a reliable airport experience in Bengaluru. Trip completion rates are strong, with average waits usually under five minutes. During late-night surges, UberGo wait times may increase briefly, but other categories offer minimal waits at competitive prices. Our airport team monitors demand in real time and suggests alternatives for a seamless experience."

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client proposes to enter into a joint development agreement to develop land approximately measuring 100 acres and purchase an extent of land approximately measuring 60 acres, totally measuring about 154 acres 26 guntas comprised in various survey numbers located at Veerlagollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District and lands measuring about 5 acres 3 guntas comprised in two survey numbers located at Alakapura Village, Thondabhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District hereinafter collectively referred to as **'Schedule Property'**, from its present owner NSL Sugars (Tungabhadra) Limited. The details of the Schedule Property are morefully set out in the **Schedule** hereinbelow

Any person/s having objection/s to the above mentioned transaction or any person/s claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to owner and/or the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge his/her/their statement/s, objection/s and/or claim/s in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, **within 21 (twenty-one) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any genuine and/or rightful objections and/or claims, our client will proceed to finalize and conclude the proposed transaction of purchase of the Schedule Property by way of an outright sale from the present owners, as if no claim/s or objection/s exist and that they have been consciously waived and abandoned by such person/s forever.

SCHEDULE

All that lands measuring about **154 acres 26 guntas** comprised in the following survey numbers all located at **Veerlagollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District** and bounded as follows:

Sl. No	Sy. No	Extent (excluding kharab)		Kharab		Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	Acre	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1	30	4	00	3	29	Government mud road	Land bearing Sy No. 31	Land bearing Sy No. 34/3	Land bearing Sy No.31and government mud road
2	31	12	27	2	07	Land bearing Sy No.30 and government mud road	Land bearing Survey Nos. 32 and 33	Land bearing Sy No. 30	Land bearing Sy No. 61
3	32	11	22	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 31	Land bearing Sy No. 51	Land bearing Sy No. 33	Land bearing Sy No. 60
4	33	13	00	0	16	Land bearing Sy No. 31	Land bearing Sy No. 50	Land bearing Survey Nos. 34/1 and 34/2	Land bearing Sy No. 32
5	48	44	05	-	-	Land bearing Survey Nos. 35 and 34/1	Land bearing Survey Nos. 49, 47 and 55	Land bearing Survey Nos. 45 and 37	Land bearing Sy No. 34/1
6	49	12	04	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 48	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Land bearing Sy No. 55	Land bearing Sy No. 50
7	50	13	13	-	-	Land bearing Survey Nos. 48 and 33	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Land bearing Sy No. 51
8	51	20	32	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 32	Land bearing Sy No. 52	Land bearing Sy No. 50	Land bearing Sy No. 59
9	52	12	36	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 51	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Land bearing Sy No. 59
10	53/1	0	21	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 49	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 54	Land bearing Sy No. 52
11	54	0	13	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 54 in the name of Gouri Distillery	Land bearing Sy No. 50
12	55	1	22	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 48	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 55 in the name of Gouri Distillery	Land bearing Sy No. 47	Land bearing Sy No. 49
13	53n/2	3	31	-	-	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 53n/2	Land bearing Sy No.72 (old 53/2)
14	Old 53 & New 72	4	00	-	-	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Land bearing Sy No. 53/1	Land bearing Sy Nos. 52 and 50
TOTAL		154	26	6	12				

All that lands measuring about **5 acres 3 guntas** comprised in the following survey numbers all located at **Alakapura Village, Thondabhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District** and bounded as follows:

Sl. No	Sy. No	Extent (excluding kharab)		Kharab		Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	Acre	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1	59	4	23	-	-	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 59	Land bearing Sy No. 60	Land bearing Sy No. 51	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 59
2	67	0	20	-	-	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 67	Lands of Talavari Kadiranna	Pennar River	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 67
TOTAL			26	2	40				

Date:13.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

For **M/s Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas**
Sd/- **Harsha Sudhindra, Partner**
Level 3, Prestige Falcon Towers, 19, Brunton Road, Off M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 025.

A researcher carefully removes a skull discovered on the last day of the excavations at the pre-historic site at Tekkalakote in Sirguppa taluk of Ballari district on Thursday.

Third skeleton unearthed on last day of Tekkalakote excavations

TEKKALAKOTE (BALLARI DIST), DHNS: A third human skeleton was discovered on the last day of the excavations at the pre-historic site here on Thursday.

Two skeletons and pots unearthed earlier have been secured properly for future studies.

On Thursday, Namitha S Sugandhi, joint director of the excavation team, found a small pot. Beneath that was a human skeleton. Continuing, she found another pot below it. Shoulder bones were found along with the skull.

Namitha told reporters that she was returning to the US, as her semester classes were resuming and so the excavation work would be suspended for now.

But the discoveries thus far would be of great use for researchers keen on undertaking excavations here in future, she said.

Dr R Shejeshwara, director of the excavation team and deputy director of the department of archaeology, museums and heritage, told reporters that steps would be taken to safeguard articles unearthed at the site over the last few days. The skeletons would be sent for carbon dating to ascertain their exact age, he said.

Talks had been held with the deputy commissioner on declaring the ash hillock and other sites of pre-historic importance in the town as protected areas, the director said.

CM, Rahul have share in Excise scam proceeds, alleges Ashoka

Says the department has become ATM for Congress

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka on Thursday alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was silent over the excise bribery scam as he has a share in the spoils.

"We had demanded a probe into the Excise department scams. But the Congress government has not ordered any probe and is trying to cover it up. It is clear that Siddaramaiah is getting a share (in the bribe) and Rahul Gandhi is getting the money as it (department) has become an ATM for the Congress party. That explains the CM's silence," charged Ashoka, during a press meet in Bengaluru, adding that his party would continue protests inside and outside the Assembly.

Ashoka dubbed the Siddaramaiah government as a "pauper government" alleging there was no fund to even buy essential medicines in government hospitals.

Medicine shortage

"Only 168 out of 800 essential medicines are available in the hospitals, that is 80% of medicines has run out of stock. There is no antidote for snake bite or dog bite, no painkillers, not even bandages for wounds. Doctors are prescribing medicines outside," said Ashoka. He said he had raised the issue even during the legislature session.

Ashoka slammed Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and said, "He had assured the House that tenders had been called and stocks would be replenished. Now, he says tenders will be finalised only in March-April. Should people die without medicines till May or June?," he sought to know.

The BJP leader alleged that surgeries had been cancelled in some hospitals due to a lack of IV fluids and life-saving drugs, and that districts such as Raichur and Kalaburagi were purchasing medicines on loan. "I suspect a 30% cut in health allocations in the previous budget due to five guarantees is to blame. The government is focusing only on excise and commission-earning departments while neglecting public welfare," he alleged.

The proposed foreign tour of Congress MLAs to Australia and New Zealand is not a study tour but a "junket for political lobbying" alleged Ashoka.

Power tussle: Shivakumar has woken up "too late", says Ashoka

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has woken up too late (to the realities of power sharing). He has raised the flag of revolt too late – said Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, referring to Shivakumar's latest trip to Delhi presumably to discuss the "power sharing" pact with the party leadership.

"November 20 was the deadline. It has passed without any change. The so-called parade and revolt never happened. Sankranti is also over. I feel there is no use of waiting any longer. Siddaramaiah seems to be in no mood to vacate his chair. He is busy with budget and then there will be elections. As D K Suresh said, it is a battle between old Congress and new Congress. Suresh had said that Old Congressmen are being insulted and outsiders are made to feel at home in the party. I too feel that is the truth. I had even told in the Assembly that Siddaramaiah will be the first person to occupy any vacant seat," said Ashoka.

R ASHOKA
Leader of the Opposition

"We had demanded a probe into the Excise department scams. But the Congress government has not ordered any probe and is trying to cover it up. It is clear that Siddaramaiah is getting a share (in the bribe) and Rahul Gandhi is getting the money as it (department) has become an ATM for the Congress party. That explains the CM's silence.

Farmers urge CM to facilitate MSP guarantee

BENGALURU, DHNS: A delegation of farmers led by Kurubur Shanthakumar under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-political) met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Thursday and submitted a memorandum seeking key reforms to safeguard farmers' interests.

The farmers urged the chief minister to press the Centre to enact a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP), ensuring procurement of all crops at MSP and implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's C2+50% formula. They also demanded a comprehensive farm loan waiver, citing mounting indebtedness and losses allegedly suffered due to non-remunerative prices.

Among other demands, the farmers sought re-enactment of the 2013 Land Acquisition Act mandating 75% farmer consent and enhanced compensation. They called for fixing the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane at a minimum of Rs 600 per quintal with payments within 14 days, failing which interest should be paid.

The memorandum further sought a national policy to compensate crop losses caused by climate change, reforms to make crop insurance farmer-friendly, fair compensation for land affected by high-tension power lines, and wider consultations before implementing provisions in the Seed Bill and Electricity Amendment Bill.

Congress MLAs on junket for political lobbying, alleges BJP

My dept not taking anyone on tour: Animal husbandry minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The proposed 'foreign tour' of Congress legislators to Australia and New Zealand was flayed by opposition parties, who alleged that it was a "junket for political lobbying" and not a study tour.

Speculations are rife over 25 Congress legislators from the Siddaramaiah camp going on an official "study tour," organised by Animal Husbandry department, from February 17 to March 7. However, the minister concerned has denied this.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka on Thursday said, "This is not a legislature committee tour nor a government delegation. What exactly is it? It appears to be a junket meant for political lobbying to favour Siddaramaiah."

Questioning the timing of the tour, Ashoka said that a musical chair for the CM's chair was in motion and the state Budget was also under preparation. But the Congress MLAs were flying abroad instead of preparing demands for their constituencies in the upcoming budget.

MLA Allamaprabhu Patil said, "It is a private tour. We have given our demands to the district in charge. My son and I will be going to Australia and New Zealand from Feb 17 till March 7. If high command asks us not to go, I will not go."

Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh, while distancing himself from the controversy, said, "My department is not taking anyone on a foreign tour. We don't have funds. During the session, some MLAs made plans to go on a tour. But now I am not going. Also, MLAs do not need anybody's permission to go on a private tour."

Ashoka also asked, "Is this a study tour. Are they going to study the sheep and cattle abroad. Why is the tour only for Congress members? Is it a tour for scientists and PhD holders? If it's a private tour and not involving taxpayers' money, who is paying for it," and how?."

Calling it "foreign resort politics," Ashoka said the Speaker should clarify the status of the tour and whether any official approval had been granted. He also suggested that the team should study the "four legs" of the CM's chair that are being pulled apart (by the factions).

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra alleged that the CM was giving 'Foreign Bhagya' to Congress legislators to save his post.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar gave a cryptic reply when asked about the legislators' tour. "I don't know what instructions the CM has given to the MLAs," he said.

200 guest faculties quit fearing probe into fake PhD/ MPhil certificates

BENGALURU, DHNS

At least 200 guest faculty members at various government degree colleges in the state, have resigned fearing inquiries into fake PhD or MPhil degree certificates.

The higher education department sources said that the development comes after the department took action to verify the authenticity of the PhD and MPhil certificates submitted by the candidates while joining the job.

As there were allegations against some guest faculty members about submitting fake certificates and a few complaints were filed before the Lokayukta, the department has instructed the principals of the degree colleges to verify their documents/ certificates.

"With the fear of getting caught, some guest faculty members have submitted their resignations," said a source from the department. Most of those who resigned are from North Karnataka districts, the source mentioned.

Meanwhile, the sources confirmed that even the Lokayukta has sought a report from the department on documents submitted by a few faculty members.

According to the complaints received by the department, some candidates have submitted counterfeit PhD certificates to bypass the mandatory NET or KSET qualification mandated as per University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations.

"If the candidates have submitted a PhD certificate from a state-run university, there are no issues. But the problem is, some candidates have submitted PhD or MPhil from universities outside Karnataka, which is suspicious," the official added.

Department commissioner Manjushree N stated, "We will soon issue a comprehensive SOP detailing the procedures for document verification and scrutiny."

In 2017, the Karnataka Examinations Authority had barred 40 candidates from interviews for assistant professor positions after discovering that they had submitted fake PhD documents, often from universities located in neighbouring states.

Chalavadi urges CM to implement internal quota, fill vacancies

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to immediately implement internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Karnataka.

In a letter to the chief minister, Narayanaswamy said: "Take a clear decision on internal reservation and immediately enforce it. As the court ordered, start filling the 2.84 lakh vacant posts (in government departments) immediately. In job recruitment, there's an option to include the changes in schedule 9 at a later time. Discuss with the Union government on including (reservation changes exceeding 50% cap). Don't give empty speeches."

He wondered whether it was not "betrayal" to use thousands of crores of rupees meant for the development of the SC/ST communities for the five flagship guarantees of the Congress government.

"We will have to hit the streets, if the government continues its anti-Dalit approach," he added.

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Set up municipal trust property mgmt system, HC tells state

To integrate Bhoomi, Sakala, e-Municipalities, etc

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court has directed the government to establish and operationalise the Municipal Trust Property Management System (MTPMS) as a single source by integrating Bhoomi, Mojini, e-Municipalities, Sakala, ULMS and others.

The authorities have been directed to assign a Trust Property Identification Number (TPIN) to each such property.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued these directions after noticing that properties belonging to the state as well as to citizens, as described under Sec 81 of Karnataka Municipalities Act, are not being maintained and protected as mandated by law.

"A public digital portal shall be maintained displaying municipality-wise trust properties, and mechanisms shall be provided for citizen reporting of encroachments or misuse, subject to appropriate safeguards against abuse. Municipal councils shall submit quarterly compliance reports, district committees shall submit bi-annual reports and state-level committee shall place annual state trust property status report before government," he said.

The court has designated principal secretary, department of e-governance, as the technology nodal authority and said that the officer shall be responsible for digital enablement, system integrity, interoperability between departments and maintenance of audit trails.

In case at hand, Syed Matin Abbas of Periyapatna, Mysuru district, challenged cancellation of the building licence by Periyapatna Town Municipal Council (TMC) on Nov 27, 2013. The petitioner's father was the successful bidder in respect of 1.7 acres of land in 1977.

In June 1988, the auction was approved by the local body. In 1991, ZP also approved it. In Sept 2013, Abbas started construction of a school following approval of building plan. On Nov 27, 2013, plan and licence were cancelled based on a complaint filed against original auction in 1977.

The petitioner moved the HC after the DC dismissed revision, saying the TMC ought to have taken prior permission from competent authority under sec 72(2) of Karnataka Municipalities Act, before auctioning municipal property.

Justice Govindaraj said the auction was held in 1977 & while exercising revisional jurisdiction, DC acted in excess of jurisdiction, in breach of procedural fairness & in violation of settled principles of administrative & quasi-judicial powers. The court allowed the petition & quashed cancellation of building licence by TMC.

No question of CM stepping down: Mahadevappa

BENGALURU, DHNS: Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa on Thursday ruled out Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's exit and said there was nothing "debatable" right now on the issue of leadership. "For now, nothing is debatable," Mahadevappa told reporters. Asked about a power-sharing agreement between Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, he said: "There's no such discussion. Everything is left to the high command." On speculation that Siddaramaiah will have to step aside, Mahadevappa said: "That question doesn't arise." Mahadevappa pointed out that Siddaramaiah had agreed to go by whatever the high command would decide.

Lokayukta cops raid 4 govt officials over DA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Lokayukta on Thursday launched surprise raids against four government officials over suspicion of disproportionate assets (DA).

The officials raided were H M Janardhan, Superintendent Engineer, Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS); Arjun R H, Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil), Bescom; Somalingappa F Siddanagoudar, Surveyor, Office of the Asst Director, Land Records, Dharwad; and Purushotam Das Hegde, Chief Engineer, Project Director, Karnataka State Highway Development Project, PWD.

"The simultaneous raids were conducted in different premises belonging to the accused government officials (AGOs) in Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Davangere and Dharwad," the Lokayukta police said.

During the raids at their residences, offices and relatives' houses, assets worth several crores were unearthed. The Lokayukta police said Hegde possessed assets worth Rs 12.84 crore, Janardhan Rs 5.77 crore, Arjun Rs 2.49 crore; and Siddanagoudar Rs 2.64 crore.

34 bonded labourers rescued from Bagalkot's brick kiln

BENGALURU, DHNS: In the week India marked 50 years since the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, officials in Bagalkot district rescued 34 bonded labourers, including nine children, who were trafficked from Odisha and held captive in a remote village.

The district administration received a complaint that the 34 individuals were held captive in a brick kiln located in Sanklapur village of Ilkal taluk. With this, 99 bonded labourers have been rescued from the district over the last three months.

"We took action immediately after receiving the complaint. Considering the number of individuals rescued, I will discuss with officials about the practicality of conducting special drives to eradicate bonded labour," Bagalkot Deputy Commissioner Sangappa M told *DH*.

District Labour Officer Ramesh S Sumbad said an FIR was registered against the brick kiln owner. "All the rescued individuals underwent a health check-up. They are fit to travel. They are boarding the train to Odisha tonight," he said.

Spandana Association, the NGO whose complaint led to the rescue, said that the 34 individuals belonged to nine families. "They were first told they would be working in Vijayawada and were taken there by bus by the trafficker. From there, they were brought by train to Bagalkot," Sushila, director of Spandana, said.

Centre signs Rs 2,300-cr deal with HAL for 8 Dornier aircraft

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Defence Ministry on Thursday signed a Rs 2,300 crore-plus deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure eight Dornier 228 aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard's operations.

"The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with HAL, Transport Aircraft Division, Kanpur, for the acquisition of eight Dornier 228 Aircraft along with operational role equipment for the Indian Coast Guard at a cost of Rs 2,312 crore under Buy (Indian) category," the ministry said in a statement.

The shore guarding force currently operates a fleet of more than 35 Dornier aircraft. In a separate development, the Defence Acquisition Council accorded an acceptance of necessity approval for the procurement of an electro-optical/infra-red system for the Coast Guard's Dornier aircraft.

41 labs of agriculture dept secure NABL accreditation

Recognition vital for legal and regulatory purposes: Director

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

To ensure global standards in agricultural quality control, Karnataka's Agriculture Department has secured NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) accreditation for 41 of its 52 laboratories across the state for 2025-26.

These facilities include soil, fertiliser, pesticide and seed testing laboratories. Of the 30 soil health laboratories functioning under the department, 29 have already received NABL recognition, providing farmers with highly reliable soil analysis for effective fertilizer management.

Global accuracy

Speaking to *DH*, Commissioner of Agriculture Y S Patil stated that the recognition guarantees that the seeds, fertilisers and pesticides used by farmers are tested with global accuracy.

"This accreditation confirms our labs have trained personnel, calibrated equipment and validated testing methods. It ensures the products sold in the market are of high quality, protecting farmers from sub-standard materials," he explained.

Director of the Agriculture Department, G T Putra, added that the recognition is vital for legal and regulatory purposes. "NABL recognised labs are trusted by courts as legal evidence."

"When lab technicians receive a sample, they prepare it by grinding or filtering it, then double check that their high-tech machines are perfectly calibrated before testing. Using scientifically proven methods, they measure the exact nutrients in soil or the strength of a pesticide to see if it matches what the manufacturer promised on the label," he added.

To ensure there are no mistakes, they often test the same sample twice or run a blank test for comparison. If the results show the product is of poor quality, the technician's report becomes a sole legal document that helps the government take action against dishonest sellers.

A lab-technician at work in a high-tech fertiliser testing laboratory of the agriculture department in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO

A lab technician explained: "Samples usually fail because the most-common reason is adulteration, where a pesticide or fertiliser is diluted, meaning it is not strong enough to kill pests or nourish crops. Sometimes, dishonest manufacturers add fillers like sand or clay to make more profit, or the product is found to be contaminated with harmful heavy metals that can ruin the soil."

"For seeds, the issue is low germination rate, because they are stored poorly or are too old. Ultimately, in the lab, we catch products that are substandard, ensuring that farmers don't waste their hard-earned money on materials that are weak, fake, or even dangerous to their land," he added.

The department has notified 4,028 inspectors across the state to implement the Insecticide Act, the Fertiliser Act and the Seeds Act. These inspectors — all BSc (Agriculture) graduates — collect random samples from shops and dealers.

"When these samples are sent to an NABL-accredited lab, the results are unquestionable," a department official explained. "It protects the farmer from substandard manufacturing. If the content of a pesticide or fertiliser is found to be below the declared value, the accreditation gives us the legal backing to file cases against manufacturers with confidence."

The department is currently processing the remaining 11 laboratories to bring them under the NABL umbrella by the end of the current financial year.

N CHALUVARAYASWAMY
Minister for Agriculture

"The move is set to benefit the state's farmers by ensuring that the products sold in the market, seeds, pesticides and fertilisers meet strict quality benchmarks. Since NABL is a member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), test reports from these labs will now be accepted internationally. This is expected to provide a big boost to the export of agricultural products from the state, reducing the need for re-testing in foreign countries.

Top court declines plea against Shivaratri puja at Aland dargah

'Petitioner can't invoke Article 32 when issue is pending before HC'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to entertain a plea seeking to restrain the holding of puja within the premises of the Ladle Mashak Dargah and the samadhi of Hindu Saint Raghava Chaitanya in Aland during Mahashivaratri.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma said Article 32 of the Constitution cannot be invoked by the petitioner, Khalil Ansari, when the issue is pending in the Karnataka High Court.

The shrine, associated with a 14th-century Sufi saint and the 15th-century Hindu saint, has historically been a shared place of worship. However, tensions flared in 2022 when disputes arose over religious rights at the dargah at Kalaburagi leading to communal unrest.

Ansari sought a direction to restrain interference with the property and prevent any "unlawful entry, mobilisation, congregation by the private respondents in the property as well as restrain any interim orders permitting entry and puja."

Senior advocate Vibha Datta Makhija, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the High Court has already decided the matter. She also said the property was a duly notified waqf property, by the waqf tribunal.

Makhija submitted that the issue involved various issues related to the Places of Worship Act and urged the bench that it may be tagged with similar matters.

She also contended that the petitioner was drawing on his religious rights under Article 26.

"If High Court dismisses your petition, you are most welcome," the bench said.

The bench finally declined to intervene, and the case was dismissed as withdrawn.

In February 2025, the Karnataka High Court had permitted 15 Hindu devotees to perform Shivaratri rituals at the Raghava Chaitanya Shivling.

The plea contended that there was an unmistakable and deeply troubling coordinated pattern to change the character of a religious place by securing interim orders from courts.

It pointed out a writ petition has been filed by Sidramayya Hiremath before the Karnataka High Court, seeking a direction to the State and police authorities to permit him and other devotees to perform puja within the Dargah premises on February 15 on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri, along with police protection.

A similar petition was also filed in 2025 by the same person in which the High Court had allowed 15 persons to enter and conduct puja on Maha Shivaratri.

The plea contended these petitions were being filed year after year around Maha Shivaratri only to create a foothold of religious entry, convert temporary access into an asserted practice, and thereafter reopen the character of the site through repeated litigation.

SSLC reward scheme: Donors contribute big time in Bagalkot

BAGALKOT, DHNS

Donors have come forward in big numbers to contribute for the department of school education and literacy's initiative to reward district toppers in the SSLC exams.

The initiative has so far attracted Rs 1.08 crore and is expected to help the district climb up the ladder, from its current 16th position in SSLC results. The district achieved a pass percentage of 67.78 in the 2024-25 results and the aim is achieve better results in this year's results.

Currently, the government gives an incentive of Rs 25,000 to every institution recording 100% pass, to be used for academic activities.

A cash prize of Rs 50,000 is given away to each of the top three performers at the district and taluk level.

The idea for a broader rewarding system germinated in the mind of Ajith Mannikeri, the deputy director of the education department. The officer put forth his plan at the Republic Day flag hoisting ceremony organised by the department in Bagalkot on January.

He said schoolchildren's parents, businessmen and organisations could donate money for cash prizes that can motivate the students to study hard and score well. This opened a floodgate of donations in the district.

"Donations are being taken in all government, aided and private schools of the district, to commemorate birthdays, in memory of deceased elders, etc. The response is good and we expect the collection to shore up further," Mannikeri told *DH*.

The cash prizes will be given to top three students in each school and those scoring 100/100 in any subject, from the money collected. This will help the kids in their PU studies, the officer said.

Conditional nod for IPL matches...

Chinnaswamy, from Page 1

"Some of the concerns raised include gates, parking areas and holding areas, which are infrastructural in nature. Others, like providing ambulances and doctors and creating triage areas, are not infrastructural concerns and can be immediately attended to. They say steps have already been taken," he added.

The home minister further stated that those hosting the matches would have to bear the responsibility. "It is the RCB and the KSCA who are conducting the event, and those who conduct the event will have to be responsible. The government can't be held responsible," he added.

Eleven people were killed and several others injured following a stampede outside the gates of the stadium during RCB's maiden IPL victory celebrations on June 4, 2025.

Senior police officers, including then Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda, were placed under suspension, which was lifted months later.

The government set up an inquiry commission under retired high court judge Justice John Michael D'Cunha. Justice D'Cunha, in his report, had concluded that the "design and structure" of the stadium were "unsuitable and unsafe" for mass gatherings.

The commission also "strongly" recommended relocating events where large crowds are expected.

CHEERING FOR CHARIOT

Thousands of devotees from far and wide take part in the annual Guru Kottureshwara Swami Rathotsava at Kottur in Vijayanagar district on Thursday. DH PHOTO/LAVA K

Bangladesh votes for 'political freedom'...

Bangladesh, from Page 1

The night before the crucial parliamentary elections, social media was abuzz with several videos accusing the Jamaat-e-Islami of election rigging and cash transfer.

The voter turnout is estimated at round 60% with official updates awaited.

But the mood was festive as people stepped out to vote to elect lawmakers on 299 seats. They also voted for a broad referendum seeking constitutional and political reforms.

Many middle-aged voters said they were voting for the first time given the vicious targeting of the opposition during the Hasina regime.

Freedom of speech and expression, freedom from toxic politics and corruption were common replies when journalists asked voters about their hopes from this election.

The Chief Advisor in the Interim Regime and Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, who oversaw these elections, called it a 'birthday' for democracy in Bangladesh.

Outside the Model High School in upscale Gulshan area in capital Dhaka, crowds, including a large number of foreign journalists, jostled amid high security as Tarique Rehman came to vote. "I have exercised my constitutional right to vote. For more than a decade, the people of Bangladesh have been waiting for this day," the BNP chairperson, seen as prime ministerial frontrunner in the race, said afterwards.

Rehman also promised that if elected, his government would start working to empower women from day one itself. Nahid Islam, chief of NCP (National Citizens' Party) which is in alliance with the Jamaat, too addressed women voters in a televised address on election eve.

He stressed "Bangladesh would never be Afghanistan" and cited Malaysia and Türkiye as examples of societies that are "religious but also liberal and progressive" amid growing concerns about women's rights if the radical Jamaat-e-Islami pulls a victory.

"Every citizen should be able to follow their own religion without any problem. Women will be free to wear what they want," said Islam, the youth leader born out of the 2024 Gen Z uprising that ousted Hasina.

Emaan Rehman (19), who was a social media coordinator during the student protests, too voted for the first time.

He called it a different feeling but expressed his disappointment that the country remains mired in several economic and social crises even with Hasina gone.

"I am hoping that my vote and those of my generation, would make a difference," he says.

By the end of polling day, several incidents of violence and scuffles were reported from various centres though the election commission maintained it was by and large peaceful.

Sheikh Hasina called the elections a 'well planned farce' in a statement condemning the polls that did not allow the Awami League to fight.

With counting underway across centres, it will be a long night amid fears of political violence and bloodshed that the fractured country is no stranger to.

After almost 18 months, the country will wake up to a new prime minister.

MoD nod for buying 114 Rafales...

Rafale, from Page 1

The DAC also greenlighted purchase of six additional P-8I long-range surveillance aircraft from the US for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 28,000 crore; airship-based high-altitude pseudo-satellites for the IAF at Rs 15,000 crore and combat missiles for the Rafale aircraft along with a few other military items for the Army and the Indian Coast Guard, sources said.

"AoN was approved for the procurement of multi-role fighter aircraft (Rafale), combat missiles and airship-based high-altitude pseudo-satellites," a Defence Ministry spokesperson said in a statement.

The deal will finally have to be sanctioned by the Cabinet Committee on Security before the commercial contract is inked.

"The procurement of MRFA will enhance the capability of undertaking air dominance roles across the spectrum of conflict and significantly boost the deterrence capabilities of IAF with long range offensive strikes. The majority of MRFA to be procured will be manufactured in India," an official said.

The combat missiles such as beyond visual range Meteor, short range Mica and cruise missile Scalp will enhance the aircraft stand-off ground attack capability with deep strike power and very high accuracy.

The decision to purchase 114 Rafale fighters from France, which is India's biggest defence deal, comes after 25 years of tumultuous politics to equip the IAF with over six squadrons of medium, multi-role combat jets as a replacement of the MiGs.

The UPA government under Manmohan Singh could not finalise the 126 medium, multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) deal in 10 years, though it shortlisted the Rafale combat jet from a global competitive tender.

The Modi-led NDA government in 2015 cancelled the MMRCA tender and purchased 36 Rafales on an emergency basis a year later. The IAF's two Rafale squadrons are based in Ambala (17 Squadrons – Golden Arrow) and Hasimara (101 Squadrons – Falcons).

On the P-8I deal, the spokesperson said, "The acquisition of P-8I aircraft will significantly boost the navy's combat/war-fighting capability of long-range anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance and maritime strike capability."

The high-altitude pseudo satellites will be utilised towards carrying out persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; electronic intelligence; telecommunication and remote sensing for military purposes.

Leadership change not discussed, says Shivakumar

DKS, from Page 1

The development comes as the Siddaramaiah government is set to complete 1,000 days in office on Friday. The party high command is likely to convene a meeting soon to address the issue, said sources.

The decision comes in the wake of meetings that Shivakumar held with top party leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal.

He reminded the high command about the long-pending meeting, which was originally scheduled for January. Shivakumar was in the national capital to participate in discussions on poll preparations for the Assam elections, as he is one of the co-observers.

He claimed that he met Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi on the sidelines of the deliberations.

However, he did not clarify whether it was a one-to-one talk with them. The party high command also did not confirm any one-to-one talk between Shivakumar and Rahul or Priyanka.

Chhattisgarh former Chief Minister Bhupesh Bhagel, who was also attending the meeting, told reporters that it was only to discuss Assam poll preparations.

The deputy chief minister was reportedly miffed with Yathindra's latest statement that his father, Siddaramaiah, had received an assurance from the party top brass that he would complete a full five-year term as chief minister.

In his meeting with Kharge and Venugopal on Thursday night, sources say, the deputy chief minister raised the issue of Siddaramaiah's camp repeatedly claiming a full five-year term and suggested that the meeting with the CM be called at the earliest to settle the matter.

Although Congress top leader, Rahul Gandhi, had planned to convene a meeting in January or early February, it did not take place due to various reasons.

Speaking to mediapersons, Shivakumar said he did not want to disclose the details of the meeting. "Politics was discussed, but that will not be discussed before the media. We are political leaders and obviously discussions happen," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister did not respond when asked if there would be a change in leadership by the completion of 1,000 days in office. He said there was no power tussle between him and the chief minister. "It is within the BJP," he added.

When asked if some legislators are embarking on a foreign tour between February 16 and March 3 to allegedly delay power-sharing between the chief minister and him, Shivakumar said he was unaware of such a development.

"I am not aware of it. I have seen it only in newspapers. Maybe the CM must be aware of it and he must have told them something which I don't know," he told reporters.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Feb 13: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	31.6	16.3	00
Bidar	31.2	12.5	00
Vijayapura	31	13	00
Dharwad	30.4	12.4	00
Haveri	31	15	00
Kalaburagi	34.4	17.4	00
Raichur	32	14.4	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	36.1	20.2	00
Karwar	37	19.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.9	22.4	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	27.7	14.4	00
Ballari	32.8	17.8	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.4	13	00
Davangere	30.5	11	00
Hassan	31.2	12.3	00
Mysuru	29.8	15	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.6	NA	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	27.5	11.6	00
Kolkata	29.7	15.3	00
Mumbai	33.6	20.2	00
Chennai	29	20.5	00
Pune	31.9	14.4	00
Hyderabad	29.8	18.3	00
Th'puram	34	21.8	00

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The Chair fails the balance test

While the Opposition's no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is certain to fail, considering the treasury benches' preponderance in numbers, the fate of the motion must not take the attention away from the central issue. The conduct of the Speaker has not conformed to the best norms to be followed by presiding officers and the precedents set by some of Birla's distinguished predecessors. His actions during the ongoing session may have been the immediate trigger for the non-confidence motion, but the Opposition parties have even in the past expressed apprehensions about the way he managed the House. It is the responsibility of the presiding officer to ensure that the proceedings are fair and follow the best traditions of parliamentary democracy. Birla has been found wanting on these counts, and the Opposition's response draws on valid concerns.

Questions have been raised on the Speaker's decision not to allow the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi to cite in his speech excerpts from an unpublished memoir by former Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane. Gandhi has the right to refer to observations made by a former Army chief, which were relevant to the issue of national security that figured in the President's address. While the rules restrict members from reading material except in connection with the business of the House, the absence of an absolute ban and the provision for members to quote from written material if they authenticate the content should have served as a go-ahead for Gandhi. The best parliamentary traditions demanded that the LoP was not prevented from speaking. Birla's decision to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to be at the House – for his reply to the motion of thanks on the President's address – is also contentious. The Speaker said he had credible information about members of the Opposition having planned "unexpected" conduct, hinting at the possibility of an attack on the Prime Minister by women members. If the information about a threat to the Prime Minister's safety was authentic, the Speaker should have taken action or alerted the relevant agencies about the input. Ensuring the Prime Minister's absence from the House was not the appropriate response.

Speaker Om Birla's actions have raised questions about parliamentary norms and conduct

Standards of parliamentary debate and conduct have deteriorated over the years. Both the government and the Opposition are responsible for this decline. But the drift becomes starker when presiding officers fail to act impartially and independently, and brazenly violate the best norms and conventions that should guide their conduct.

Snow droughts and rising risks

Depletion of snow in the Himalayas intensified this winter, with the bare peaks in January signalling an unprecedented situation. Uttarakhand's Garhwal region did not experience snowfall till a few weeks ago. The 12,000-feet Tungnath missed snow for much of the season, leaving tourists disappointed and causing alarm to the local residents. Other parts of the western Himalayas have reported severe snow deficit, with Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir also experiencing a dry and snow-light winter. Winter, typically, arrives in these regions in December and by January, many peaks are snow-clad. Snow persistence in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region has been recorded as below-normal during winters in recent years. While the drop this winter is in line with trends from the past 4-5 years, this presents an evolving challenge which the scientists term snow droughts. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in its 2025 snow update, reported that the 2024-25 winter snow persistence in the HKH region was a "historically low" -23.6%.

Westerly disturbances – the extratropical storms from the Mediterranean that bring moisture and produce snow in the mountains – have been reported as weak this winter. These systems are critical to winter precipitation in the Himalayas. The weakened westerly disturbances, coupled with climate change, is considered to have reduced rain and snowfall across the region, further impacting already vulnerable stretches. The shift in pattern is likely to have serious consequences because the mountain range, described as the Third Pole, influences not only the weather but the economy of countries and the livelihoods of billions of people. Snowmelt, which feeds major river systems of the region, is critical to drinking water supply and hydropower projects. Agriculture in the Gangetic plain and other regions is dependent on water from these rivers.

In the Himalayas, an alarming snow deficit is threatening ecosystems and water security

The disappearance of snow poses other threats such as wildfires. It risks weakening the mountains, potentially triggering rockfalls and landslides. Snow protects the soil and plant roots from excessive heat and is critical to much of the biodiversity in the region. Many glaciers are already retreating and the snow drought will make the impact worse. Falling water levels in the rivers, many of them shared between countries, will also have political consequences and may lead to disputes. Over the years, scientists have mooted a multi-pronged approach to basin-level action. Policies informed by science and evidence, along with stronger data-sharing and regional collaborations, is the way forward in addressing what has all the markings of a crisis with wide-ranging impact.

ORDER ON HOLD

Stays and recalls dilute judicial finality

The SC's recent rulings revising its earlier positions have applied inconsistent standards, risking jurisprudential confusion

PRIYAMVADHA SHIVAJI

Courts are not infallible, as they have themselves acknowledged. Article 137 of the Constitution confers power upon the Supreme Court of India to review its judgments. Under the SC Rules, the threshold for exercising review power is high, as a decision's finality is the default and review is the only mechanism for course-correction.

In the last few months, however, a trend appears to be emerging whereby the SC 'corrects' its decisions through recalling and keeping them in abeyance until fresh orders are passed, and staying the application of rules and regulations. Last month, the SC 'kept in abeyance' the 2026 University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, which were developed following SC directions in an earlier Public Interest Litigation (PIL) case. In December 2025, it stayed an order which adopted a much-criticised definition of the Aravalli Hills. In November, a 3-judge bench recalled an earlier 2-judge bench order striking down retrospective environmental clearances for projects. In August, the earlier directions of a 2-judge bench on the blanket removal of stray dogs in Delhi were transferred *suo motu* to a 3-judge bench, which subsequently modified the order. In July 2025, the SC recalled its earlier judgment liquidating Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd, ordering a fresh hearing on merits.

It is noteworthy that all of these decisions came in the wake of a wave of negative sentiment and backlash against the SC. The Centre's definition of the Aravalli Hills sparked widespread protests across affected states, highlighting the possibility of increased illegal mining eroding the natural ecosystem. Similarly, the SC's initial orders taking a sweeping stance against stray dogs were vastly contested. The recall orders, passed shortly thereafter, were visible attempts to calm the waters.

In addition to public sentiment, the SC also appears to be convinced by arguments seeking continuity in the *status quo* from the perspective of the markets and industry. In *Vanashakti*, the then-Chief Justice of India B R Gavai noted that rejecting retrospective environmental clearances would have a chilling effect on government projects; the uncertainty expressed in the country's insolvency framework following the initial *Bhushan Steel* decision was also a factor in its eventual recall.

These cases point to a troubling pattern, where questions of law and jurisprudence take a backseat to more practical considerations. In such stay or recall orders, the judicial reasoning for

why these cases meet the high threshold for review or course-correction is often minimal.

No explicit reasons were recorded for the *suo motu* transfer of the stray dogs case to a 3-judge bench. An oral mention before the CJI was sufficient for the case to be transferred to a different forum. While the SC called the 2026 UGC Regulations 'prone to misuse', it did not clarify if a *prima facie* case for their unconstitutionality was made out for keeping them in abeyance in its order, to meet review thresholds. The *Vanashakti* recall order was passed by a 3-judge bench, with only Justice Bhuyan (the sole dissenter) having been part of the earlier 2-judge bench, although review petitions are required to be heard by the same judges (Justice Oka had since retired) or bench strength as the earlier judgment.

By procedure, it appears that these cases are examples of 'bench hunting', where persons who are aggrieved by a specific order raise the same matter before a different bench in the hopes of a different outcome. This may not necessarily be maliciously contrived on the part of the petitioner; retirement and roster shuffling often result in frequent changes in bench composition. In *Bhushan Steel*, for example, the review petitions filed by the aggrieved company were heard by different benches until the plea for review was granted.

Some SC judges have themselves noted that bench hunting must be curbed to uphold institutional integrity. Justice Nagarathna noted that public confidence in the finality and justiciability of SC decisions is eroded when orders change because "faces have changed", and not because of "objections raised... according to law". Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine Masih remarked in court that the "recent trend of verdicts being overturned by successive benches... at the behest of some party aggrieved by them" was troubling.

Need for clarity and consistency

However, the SC's recent approach towards tackling this phenomenon has been baffling, leading to jurisprudential confusion. Another example is the Presidential Reference filed under Article 143 in response to the 2-judge bench's April 2025 verdict on the Governor's powers, rather than a review petition, which would have been the ordinary course of affairs.

Another concern with the SC's recent trend in preferring stay and recall orders is its inconsistency in applying them. Review petitions seeking a re-examination of the judgment refusing to uphold the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, and orders invalidating the recruitment of multiple teachers in West Bengal owing to 'irregularities', were dismissed. In the West Bengal case, the petitioners argued that invalidating recruitment after many years would result in people losing their livelihoods, and the *status quo* must not be disturbed. However, in *Vanashakti*, the court applied this same logic to reach the opposite conclusion, calling for protecting the livelihoods of workers undertaking existing infrastructural projects while walking back environmental protections.

Of course, the merits of these decisions cannot be compared. The trouble lies in recall orders that are passed inconsistently and incoherently. Procedural clarity and consistency are crucial for upholding the SC's hard-won reputation as the ultimate arbiter of justice. It is hoped that well-reasoned and balanced decisions are delivered in the first instance, with their finality being challenged only where grave and apparent injustices must be corrected.

(The writer is a senior resident fellow, Justice Access and Lowering Delays in India [JALDI] Initiative, at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Gold, gods, and grand weddings

What happens to the great Indian wedding when its starring hero is priced out of the script?

K CHIDANAND KUMAR

My cousin's wedding last season was a spectacle of saffron and shine. Yet, the most whispered-about guest wasn't a relative from abroad, but the bride's necklace. Its weight, its craftsmanship, its sheer carat value, was the unspoken measure of the family's esteem. Today, with gold prices hitting a stratosphere that seems to mock earthly budgets, I think of families huddled over ledgers, that silent measure now a source of deep anxiety. This historic surge, driven by global tremors and market speculators, feels like a distant storm that has washed ashore right into our living rooms and locker rooms.

For Indians like my auntie, Chandrakantha, gold is not an investment chart. It is security you can hold in your palm; it is a story melted and recast through generations. It is the quiet asset she could claim in a world not always fair. This price rise, therefore, is a peculiar betrayal. It enriches those who have, while it fences out those who need. The wedding shopping list, once a joyful rite, now reads like a loan application. The metal meant to signify stability is now the very thing causing instability.

So, what becomes of the great Indian wedding when its starring hero is priced out of the script? Whispers turn to alternatives. My uncle, ever the pragmatist, suggested silver the other day. It is sacred, it is elegant, and it would save a fortune. But we both knew the truth. In our social theatre, silver is the trustworthy friend in the background, never the bride. It cannot shoulder the same centuries of meaning. A shift would require not just budgeting, but a quiet social revolution, one family at a time.

Perhaps this financial pinch is a needed nudge. Our love for gold is deep, but must it be so physically heavy? We could love smarter. We can invest in Sovereign Gold Bonds, where gold pays us interest and sits safely without a locker. We can champion heirloom jewellery, melting and remaking old pieces into new memories, a practice both economical and deeply sentimental. We can collectively decide that a marriage is measured by joy, not by grams. My Auntie Chandrakantha's real treasure was not her necklace, but the resilience it represented. Maybe our new resilience can be found in letting go, in holding our traditions a little more lightly, and our future a great deal more secure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student suicides: Prioritise intervention

The editorial 'Saving students takes more than helplines' (Feb 12) rightly highlights that student suicides reflect a systemic failure, not isolated distress. While Karnataka's policy and mentor initiative are welcome, helplines alone cannot counter a pressure-driven academic culture that stigmatises failure and neglects mental health. Institutions shall appoint qualified full-time counsellors and train staff to recognise early signs of distress. Prevention demands resources, accountability, and a compassionate rethinking of how we educate and evaluate students. Protecting young lives requires urgency, not incrementalism.
Haritmaa Sharma, Bengaluru

Champion local talent

The recent relaunch of Mysore Sandal Soap under KSDL, with Tamannaah Bhatia as ambassador and 60 new products unveiled, signals ambitious global expansion. While her pan-India appeal supports market growth, prioritising Kannada film talents – who have achieved national recognition (e.g., Rashmika Mandanna, Sreeleela, Rachita Ram) – would better honour the brand's Karnataka heritage and cultural authenticity. Guidelines for state enterprises could encourage merit-based selections that promote local creative ecosystems and strengthen emotional ties with consumers.
Anand Jewoor, Kalaburagi

Elusive peace

What Manipur needs is not a change of face in the government, but greater intent, courage, and accountability. The new government may look like a reset, but peace cannot be declared from secretariats when fear still rules the villages and camps. The wounds are deep because the state failed to act as a neutral protector when it mattered most. Enduring peace will emerge only with honest efforts from the new dispensation towards reconciliation.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Make terms transparent

Apropos 'US waters down India trade deal terms' (Feb 12), the revision of key references, including pulses, energy, and digital taxes, reflects the sensitive nature of bilateral negotiations. While amendments may ease the diplomatic concerns, the larger question remains about transparency and India's long-term economic interests. Citizens deserve clear communication to understand how such changes impact farmers, industry, and digital markets.
Lubhani Khattar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The country is moving ahead, and all these people speak the language of Pakistan. They go abroad and criticise the Prime Minister... What kind of patriotism is this?

Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra Deputy CM (on Rahul Gandhi's criticism over the India-US trade agreement)

A politician will do anything to keep his job – even become a patriot.
William Randolph Hearst

TO BE PRECISE

BJP files notice to terminate Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership

IN PERSPECTIVE

Getting AI right, the Indian way

Adoption must be driven by context, judgment, and the institutional strength for local problem-solving

VINEET NAYAR

As India prepares to host the mega AI Impact Summit, the prevailing mood is one of excitement. That is understandable. Artificial Intelligence promises scale, speed, and the possibility of leapfrogging long-standing constraints. Few technologies in recent memory have generated this level of global attention. Yet moments like these also deserve restraint.

Not because AI is overhyped, but because history suggests that when enthusiasm runs ahead of judgment, outcomes suffer. I find myself reflective rather than euphoric, not out of scepticism, but out of lived experience. I felt the same way in the early days of the internet, and later during the outsourcing boom. In both moments, global experts arrived with confidence and compelling narratives. Predictions were bold. Solutions were neatly packaged and sold. The future, it seemed, had already arrived. It hadn't.

In hindsight, the problem was not the technology. It was borrowed thinking. Context was ignored, local constraints were underestimated, and judgment was outsourced to those who understood the tools but not the terrain. Many promised outcomes took far longer to materialise, and some never did. That risk feels very present again.

We will see a familiar pattern play out. Prominent global leaders will arrive with fanfare, offering confident predictions about how the future might unfold. Their demonstrations will be impressive and their narratives persuasive. Yet the one certainty I feel most strongly is not about how quickly societies will change, but about how prominently India will feature in their growth plans. When certainty is this absolute, it often reflects clarity about commercial opportunity more than clarity about real-world outcomes. This is where judgment matters.

When countries and organisations listen too closely to experts selling certainty and subscriptions, a predictable sequence follows. Automation begins before the work itself is deeply understood. Tools are deployed before roles are redesigned. Metrics of "impact" are chased before anyone pauses to ask what kind of work should exist in the first place.

Technology vendors are rewarded for speed and scale. Nations, however, pay the price when judgment is replaced by imitation. AI amplifies this risk because it scales not just efficiency, but assumptions. Clear thinking compounds. Shallow thinking spreads just as fast.

India's opportunity with AI does not lie in becoming the largest consumer of tools or the fastest adopter of global frameworks. Tools will become commodities. Certifications will multiply. Subscription models will proliferate. None of this guarantees a meaningful impact. What matters is thinking. India does not need more *gyaan*. It needs its own thinking.

Over the last few years, I have seen what thoughtful AI impact can look like, particularly in rural education. For the first time, data is emerging directly from classroom teaching rather than relying only on lagging indicators or periodic surveys. That visibility changed behaviour. Education officers are now nudged to encourage schools where teaching practices are working well and, equally importantly, to intervene early where schools are falling behind. The technology itself is not the breakthrough. The breakthrough is the combination of data with human judgment, local context, and timely action. Used this way, quietly and purposefully, AI is delivering impact not just measurable, but significantly meaningful.

Beyond the summits

This is why the shift from treating AI as a demi-god to focusing on AI impact, as this summit is attempting to do, is welcome. Impact, however, does not travel well on its own. It has to be created where problems are real, constraints are non-negotiable, and trade-offs are unavoidable. The most important work of AI, therefore, is not technical. It is cultural.

It forces organisations and governments to confront uncomfortable questions. Who decides when algorithms are confident but wrong? Where does accountability sit when judgment is partially automated? What must remain deeply human as machines grow more capable? These questions are not resolved at summits. They are answered over time, in classrooms, offices, factories, and public systems, long after the spotlight has moved on.

India should be ambitious about AI. But ambition without judgment is fragile. The real test will not be how many pilots are launched or tools deployed, but whether we build the institutional muscle to learn, adapt, and think independently. The internet accelerated Indian IT because we reimagined its use rather than replicating existing models. That instinct to adapt instead of imitate made all the difference. AI will require the same approach: patience over speed, discernment over adoption, and confidence in local problem-solving rather than borrowed certainty.

That is not pessimism. That is lived experience.

(The writer is Founder-Chairman, Sampark Foundation)

Rising India needs a Latin America plan

GIRISANKER S B NAIR

India's foreign policy debates are often dominated by its immediate neighbourhood, the Indo-Pacific, and relations with major powers. Yet one strategically consequential region continues to sit at the margins of New Delhi's attention: Latin America. This neglect is no longer benign. In a global order marked by geopolitical polarisation, supply-chain disruptions, and renewed great-power competition, Latin America has moved from the periphery to the centre of global debates on energy security, critical minerals, food supply chains, and Global South coalition-building.

Today, Latin American countries are actively recalibrating their external partnerships. Seeking to preserve strategic autonomy amid intensifying US-China rivalry, many governments in the region are reducing overdependence and diversifying relations. This creates a rare opening for India, whose political stability, rapid economic growth, and rising global influence as a non-hegemonic, democratic Global South partner, enhance its appeal across the region.

Economically, the logic for closer ties is straightforward. Latin America possesses vast reserves of lithium, copper, crude oil, and agricultural commodities, resources that align directly with India's energy transition, manufacturing ambitions, and food security needs. India has already taken initial steps through the FOCUS LAC programme, India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement, India-LAC Conclave, free trade negotiations with Chile and Peru, and lithium cooperation with Argentina. Indian pharmaceuticals, oil industries, IT services, automobiles, and engineering goods have also gained footholds across the region. Yet, India-Latin America trade has stagnated at around $35-40 billion, far below New Delhi's stated ambition of reaching $100 billion by the late 2020s. What is missing is a shift towards deeper diversified integration through investment protection, logistics connectivity, and sector-specific partnerships.

On defence, Brazil and Argentina have expressed interest in Indian platforms, and India has supplied equipment to several Latin American countries. However, India's cooperation with Latin American countries remains modest, indicating considerable scope for further expansion.

Culturally, India enjoys a reservoir of goodwill in the region. Diaspora communities in the Caribbean preserve Indian languages, religious traditions, and festivals, many of which are now officially recognised as national holidays. Indian movies, yoga, and Ayurveda have gained widespread popularity. India has also institutionalised its soft power through ICCR scholarships, ITEC capacity-building programmes, and cultural exchanges. However, India's cultural appeal has yet to be sustained by region-wide institutional presence.

Shared models, fragmented ties

India and Latin America also share scepticism towards global governance institutions that inadequately represent developing-world interests. This shared worldview underpins common positions on upholding the rule of law, climate justice, and inclusivity, thereby leading them to work together under the Global South framework, grounded in shared values, mutual respect, and solidarity. Both camps seek to exchange best practices and reduce over-reliance on traditional partners by expanding South-South trade and cooperation. For instance, with over 87% of its crude oil requirements met through imports, India remains vulnerable to supply chain disruption and hence, is deepening energy engagement with countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Guyana, and Suriname, as part of restructuring India's energy security architecture.

Other than this, India's digital inclusive model, exemplified by the Unified Payments Interface and Aadhaar-based systems, has been adopted in countries such as Trinidad and Tobago and is being implemented in Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, and Jamaica. India has also emerged as a hub for governance and capacity-building for several Latin American countries, enabling exposure to India's experience in managing federalism, state-Centre relations, and democratic governance in a highly diverse society.

Despite this, India's engagement with Latin America remains fragmented. This is not due to language barriers (as India has built deep partnerships across linguistically diverse Africa). Rather, it reflects long-standing strategic neglect shaped by distance. However, today, these constraints are rapidly eroding. New infrastructure projects across Latin America are reducing the tyranny of distance to Asia (the Port of Chancay in Peru has reduced transportation time from around 40 days to 25-30 days). India should not wait passively for these shifts to mature; it should invest in new connectivity corridors, regional projects, and alternative routes that bypass traditional hubs such as the Panama Canal.

As India's global profile rises, so must its strategic and economic footprint in the region. The shift is already visible in Delhi; India's budget allocation for Latin America has steadily increased (Rs 120 crore in 2026-27), reflecting a growing importance of the region to India. What India needs now is a coherent Latin America strategy to integrate into regional supply chains – one that institutionalises engagement by moving it from the margins of multilateral platforms to a structured and regularised mechanism, expands economic and diplomatic presence, pursues observer or active participation in regional institutions including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and systematically strengthens soft power, including through the promotion of Track 1.5 dialogues. The onus lies squarely on New Delhi to utilise the strategic space created by the US-China rivalry and the trust it enjoys in the region to develop a coherent LAC strategy.

(The writer is a research associate at the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, specialising in US-Latin America. Views expressed are personal)

This awards season, three films probe the layered realities of Palestinian life beyond headlines and reductive narratives

SARA ARIDI

A scene from *All That's Left of You*, which is up for an Indie Spirit Award. NYT

The Palestinian story, unpacked on film

Three films in the awards season conversation share a common theme: centring Palestinian stories.

Together, *The Voice of Hind Rajab*, *All That's Left of You* and *Palestine 36* cover nearly a century's worth of history. The plots and timelines differ, yet the movies all come from a shared desire to dig deeper than fleeting news coverage and social posts and show the complex lives of Palestinians.

Two years ago, Tunisian director and writer Kaouther Ben Hania heard voice recordings of a 5-year-old girl in the Gaza Strip named Hind, who was trapped in a car with the bodies of six relatives. Rescuers from the Palestine Red Crescent tried to reach her, but she was found dead nearly two weeks after her haunting, high-pitched voice rippled across the world.

At the time, Ben Hania, whose 2023 documentary, *Four Daughters*, was nominated for an Oscar, was working on her next feature, a period piece set in Tunisia. But she felt a duty to share Hind's story with the world, particularly as the war in Gaza raged on. "Palestinian voices are suppressed and invisible," she said, but Hind's was hard to forget. "Once you hear her voice, you can't unhear it." She contacted Hind's mother, Wesam Hamada, and received permission to pursue the film.

The result, *The Voice of Hind Rajab*, is a docudrama that powerfully weaves in Hind's voice recordings, while actors (Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Amer Hlehel and Clara Khoury) dramatise the tense rescue effort in the Red Crescent's West Bank call centre. The film, shot in Tunisia, is up for the best international Oscar at the Academy Awards in March.

Ben Hania wanted the cast to approach the material with the same hope the rescue workers had the day they spoke to Hind. The script follows the recordings almost verbatim, and the actors didn't hear the full conversations until the cameras started rolling. In the close-ups, it's hard to tell which reactions are rehearsed; Ben Hania said one actor was so shaken by Hind's pleas that he broke down on set once.

While that movie was a direct response to the war in Gaza, Palestinian American director and actress Cherien Dabis had been mulling the premise of *All That's Left of You* for years. The film unspools the trauma passed down over three generations in a Palestinian family. Inspired by her own relatives, Dabis said she wanted to explore "what it is to endure decades of political violence and how that changes you." The film, which is up for best international film at the Indie Spirits on Sunday, stars the late Palestinian actor Mohammad Bakri and his sons Adam and Saleh, alongside Dabis as the matriarch.

The family's story begins in Jaffa in 1948 during what is known as the Nakba, or "catastrophe," the displacement and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians during the creation of Israel. The tale then jumps to 1978, when the family is living in a refugee camp in the West Bank, and later to 1988, during the first intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation.

Preproduction began in May 2023 in the West Bank. After Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, the territory went into lockdown and foreign crew members wanted to leave. Dabis had planned to shoot part of the film in Cyprus, so she prioritised those scenes while waiting to see if returning to the West Bank was possible. When it became clear that would hold up the film indefinitely, Dabis decided to shoot the remainder in Jordan and Greece, and had a team film some scenes in the West Bank with Dabis directing remotely via video calls.

"We shot more than half the film in the Palestinian refugee camps" in the north of Jordan, Dabis said, "which was great because we got to work with the Palestinian refugee community in the telling of, essentially, their own story."

Palestine 36, written and directed by Palestinian filmmaker Annemarie Jacir, looks back at a lesser-known episode of history, the farmer-led revolt against British colonialism in Mandatory Palestine. A period drama with an ensemble cast that includes Hiam Abbass and Jeremy Irons, the film starts in 1936, when millions of Jews were immigrating to the region under the Balfour Declaration.

The story oscillates between two Palestinian worlds: a village where farmers are losing their jobs and their land to Jews, and Jerusalem, where wealthy landowners host sophisticated parties and dismiss the farmers' plight. After a mass strike is called, tensions between the locals and the British administration crescendo to a devastating boiling point.

Jacir, who lives in Bethlehem, said she focused on those events to show how the British Empire set the stage for the Israeli occupation. And the more she researched the story, she said, the more she was "struck by how contemporary and relevant it is right now."

Like Dabis, Jacir faced a number of hurdles. Her team spent nearly a year building props and restoring an entire village to emulate those of the 1930s. They also had to work around Israeli restrictions in the West Bank, like hours-long hold-ups at checkpoints. After October 7, production came to a halt. Eventually, the team relocated to Jordan, where they had to restore another village from scratch, but Jacir insisted on shooting the final scenes in the West Bank and Israel. "I didn't want to finish the film anywhere else," she said. The land itself was a character, she added, that could not be compromised.

The feature, which opens in New York on March 20 before a nationwide release in April, is Jacir's fourth to be selected as the Oscar entry from the Palestinian territories. The film and *All That's Left of You*, Jordan's submission, made it as far as the Academy Award shortlist for best international feature, but didn't find a nomination.

For all three filmmakers, working during the war in Gaza added another level of intensity. "We were literally creating scenes from 1948 that we were watching again happen on a more catastrophic, unprecedented scale in Gaza," Dabis said. While she and Ben Hania said they were shocked that the war dragged on for so long, their movies helped alleviate a sense of helplessness. "It felt like we were channeling our grief rather than acting," Dabis said.

Jacir removed some lighter moments from her script after the war began; they no longer felt appropriate. "Everything just became heavier," she said, adding that *Palestine 36* was a product of love, pain and a lot of rage.

Getting the films off the ground wasn't easy. Early on, *The Voice of Hind Rajab* had the support of executive producers such as Brad Pitt, Joaquin Phoenix and Rooney Mara, and it won the top prize at the 2025 Venice Film Festival, yet was picked up by an independent distributor, WILLA, instead of a major studio. *All That's Left of You* premiered at Sundance in 2025 and attracted Mark Ruffalo and Javier Bardem as executive producers. But Dabis said mainstream distributors were "afraid of the subject matter." It's an issue that also faced the makers of *No Other Land*, about Israel's destruction of homes in the West Bank, a film that went on to win the best documentary Oscar last year.

All of the filmmakers worked in some capacity with Watermelon Pictures, a film production and distribution company founded by two Palestinian American brothers, Hamza and Badie Ali. "There's not a lot of distributors willing to roll the dice on these films," Hamza Ali said. "That's why we exist."

Watermelon Pictures was started in 2024 in part to uplift narratives the company believes challenge the *status quo*. Palestinians, Ali said, have been dehumanised by the entertainment industry. "We want to move past that," he added. "We want people to think of us beyond our suffering." **NYT**

Time to pass the NRI Marriage Bill

PARVATHY POORNIMA

Thousands of Indian women marry the men of their dreams in lavish ceremonies, spend fortunes, and then find themselves discarded in foreign countries—without resources, support or a way back. Rita Sahni was abandoned by her husband Nilesh in Ireland *(The Guardian*, 2021). So was Jagdeep Kaur by her husband, Sukhminder Singh, in Germany (*Financial Express*, 2026). Over the past five years, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has received 1,617 complaints from women abandoned by NRI husbands abroad (MEA 2025). These women married in India, flew overseas, and were deserted by their husbands, who often prevented their return. In this context, the long-pending Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill acquires urgent significance.

The MEA also notes that cases of men who migrate abroad after abandoning their wives in India are handled by state governments. Both forms of gender-based violence—abandonment abroad or desertion at home—constitute transnational marriage abandonment (TMA), a phenomenon largely unexplored in the Indian context. While international human rights frameworks do not define TMA as a distinct category, it is formally recognised as a form of domestic abuse in countries such as the United Kingdom. The UK Home Office describes it as coercive behaviour in which a partner abandons or strands the other overseas.

The Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019, seeks to hold husbands accountable by mandating marriage registration and enabling stranded wives to pursue legal action even while abroad.

Several states, like Kerala and Punjab, have established NRI ministries or welfare cells to address such grievances. Karnataka has discussed creating a separate ministry for Kannadiga NRIs.

NRI marriages are governed variously by the Foreign Marriage Act, the Hindu Marriage Act, the Special Marriage Act, and personal laws. However, there is no single codified framework for NRI marital disputes.

Introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 2019 by the then external affairs minister, Sushma Swaraj, the bill was examined by a Standing Committee, which found it inadequate on issues such as custody, maintenance and definitional clarity. Although approved in 2020, it was not taken up for discussion for four years. Concerns ranged from extraterritorial overreach to the potential strain on bilateral relations arising from passport impoundment. In 2024, the Law Commission recommended revising and expanding the Bill to cover Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).

At a time when women are under-represented in Parliament and governments are criticised for failing to address gender violence structurally, legislation alone cannot dismantle systemic patriarchy. The real dilemma lies in negotiating women's rights within a State framework that often prioritises national security, economic growth, and trade agreements as key developmental concerns.

NRI marriages are marketed as aspirational pathways to economic security through overseas settlement. Yet, a legal blind spot exists: in unregistered NRI marriages, women struggle to prove their legal status. Those on dependent visas in many European countries have "no recourse to public funds" (NRPF), barring them from welfare benefits. They also face racism, language barriers, social isolation, psychological abuse and vulnerabilities related to child custody. In some cases, men exploit women using NRI marriage as a means to control mobility and finances. Though European countries have criminalised forced marriages and are discussing honour-based violence, many NRI women hesitate to seek legal recourse, fearing social stigma and family rupture.

The proposed bill mandates registration of NRI marriages within a specified time, creating documentary proof that can prevent later denial of marriage and enable claims for maintenance and custody. It requires NRI spouses to declare existing marriages to prevent bigamy and fraud. It grants Indian courts jurisdiction even when marriages take place abroad, with summons served through consulates and embassies. Courts can revoke NRI passports for strict enforcement. Divorce granted by a foreign court without the recognition of Indian courts is not valid if not mutual.

In the wake of growing anti-immigrant sentiment, NRI women face multi-level challenges in overseas communities. The international legal ambiguity on TMA exacerbates the stigma associated with divorce and further isolates victims. Though the role of law as an agent of structural change is debatable, the NRI bill offers the deserted NRI women abroad a chance to reclaim their lives.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy, School of Humanities, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

BDA Bill voted with CPI amendment

Bangalore, Feb. 12
The Karnataka Assembly today passed the BDA Bill to replace the ordinance issued in January last through which a co-ordinated central authority was created for planning and execution of city development works. In the course of a prolonged consideration of the Bill, Chief Minister Devaraj Urs accepted a suggestion from Mr. M. S. Krishnan (CPI), to reduce the time limit of seven years prescribed in the Bill for completion of development works to five years. The Bill was accordingly amended.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

Jeevaraj Alva is dead

Bangalore, Feb 12 (DHNS)
Former minister and JD (U) National Vice-President Dr Jeevaraj Alva died this evening at a private hospital here due to acute pneumonia. The 54-year-old Dr Alva, who was admitted to the intensive care unit of Manipal Hospital yesterday afternoon, was on ventilator support. A team of doctors had been attending on Dr Alva who was in a very critical condition. "His condition was very critical. His pneumonia was very bad and he also had jaundice. He had stopped responding properly to treatment," said the hospital spokersperson.

OASIS | RAVI RICHARD

Faith as an anchor

Life's tribulations can get extremely harsh, when confronted by a deadly disease. The most dreaded of them all, cancer, still mystifies oncologists and scientists, with an unchanged reputation, mentioned in a 19th Century Surgeons text, as the 'king of terrors' and 'Emperor of all maladies". 4th February is observed as 'International Cancer day', for the prevention, detection, and treatment of this disease, which has become a major global threat.

Many survivors, especially those battling the last stage or the 4th stage of certain types of cancer, eagerly crave for emotional and spiritual support from the medical system, family and friends to overcome the fear and trauma of an imminent death. But the availability of the right support remains a challenge. With limited options, many survivors turn to the almighty as a way of finding comfort, peace and with the hope of a miracle.

Research studies have shown that spirituality and faith in God have resulted in better outcomes and improved quality of life for cancer survivors. Prayers, meditation, religious rituals, reading and drawing inspiration from scriptures, spiritual counselling and listening to live testimonies shared by those miraculously healed can instil hope and confidence in the survivors to effectively manage their emotional health.

Faith fosters stronger bonds with family and friends through shared activities like visits to places of worship, undertaking pilgrimage and fellowship prayers. The relationship with doctors and other medical staff also improves as some survivors perceive that the medical teams and care givers are being guided by God's intervention.

Faith in God helps cancer survivors to find a purpose even during harrowing circumstances. This can help lowering emotional stress and better coping mechanisms.

A dreaded disease like cancer can bring a person closer towards building a new relationship with God. Faith in these testing times acts like a catalyst to build emotional resilience, spiritual growth and transformation and most importantly an ability to create wellbeing for oneself in the present moment. It builds a proactive attitude of accepting life's uncertainties and coping with adversity in the best manner, whatever may be the outcome.

Kerala's urbanisation surges to 82.6%

Analysis shows shrinking urban-rural divide; govt cites consistent public investment

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala is witnessing rapid urbanisation, with spatial analysis estimating that the state's actual urbanisation has reached 82.6%, which is far beyond the statutory level of 53.81%.

The analysis also found that Kerala's urban population has risen from 47.7% in 2011 to around 72.2% now, according to the Centre's latest Economic Survey (2025-26).

While demographic experts see this as evidence of the diminishing urban–rural divide, the ruling government highlights it as the result of "consistent public investment in housing, healthcare, education and connectivity rather than city-centred expansion."

Demographic expert S Irudaya Rajan says the urban-rural divide in Kerala has almost disappeared. "As we travel across Kerala, it is clearly evident. Shops and buildings are visible across state, which itself is a sign of urbanisation," said Rajan, founder-chair of the Thiruvananthapuram-based International Institute of Migration and Development.

Kerala Industries Minister P Rajeev, in a social media post, said that functional urbanisation at 82.6% reflects how urban services, livelihoods and infrastructure now extend well beyond municipal boundaries as a result of planned governance. "Improved transport, digital infrastructure and public services have enabled industries and enterprises to operate in towns and villages," he said.

According to the Economic Survey, the creation of 34 new urban local bodies and the expansion of municipal boundaries after the 2011 Census have taken Kerala's statutory urbanisation level to 53.81%.

However, a spatial review reveals widespread growth of built-up areas, new settlement patterns and integration of economic zones beyond traditional municipal limits, pushing functional urbanisation to 82.6%. The review also points to dispersed urban growth forming a ribbon-like conurbation. With expansion concentrated in peri-urban and corridor regions outside city boundaries, there is a need for development strategies that address these areas.

Experts also point out factors such as the large inflow of migrant workers, substantial NRI deposits as contributors to accelerating urbanisation.

RAPID GROWTH

- From 47.7% in 2011 to over 70% today, experts say divide has nearly vanished
- Shops and services stretch across towns and villages
- Experts cite migrant inflows and NRI deposits
- State govt credits planned investment in housing, healthcare and connectivity

Bengal nurse who recovered from Nipah dies of cardiac arrest

KOLKATA, PTI: A 25-year-old nurse who had recovered from Nipah virus infection died of cardiac arrest on Thursday at a private hospital at Barasat in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, a state health department official said.

She had been taken off ventilator support at the end of January. "She died of cardiac arrest this afternoon. Though she had recovered from Nipah infection, she was suffering from multiple complications," the official said.

The woman was one of two health workers in the state who tested positive for Nipah earlier this year. The other, a male nurse, had recovered and returned home.

The deceased, a resident of Katwa in Purba Bardhaman district, had been in a prolonged coma, which severely weakened her immunity, he said. She also developed a lung infection and contracted a hospital-acquired infection during treatment.

"She was trying to regain consciousness, move her limbs, and speak before her condition suddenly deteriorated. She died at around 4.20 pm," he said.

The nurse had first fallen ill in early January after returning home on December 31 for the New Year holidays and was initially admitted to Burdwan Medical College and Hospital before being shifted to the private hospital in Barasat.

Row over Shivaji statue installation in Telangana

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Tension erupted in Maheshwaram in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district over a statue of Maratha warrior king Shivaji.

Hindu groups installed it at the main junction near a statue of Father of the Constitution and Dalit icon B R Ambedkar in the early hours of Thursday, prompting Dalit groups to stage protests later on Thursday morning.

The police intervened, shifting the Shivaji statue to the local panchayat office. Panchayat leaders later assured a new location for the statue.

Hindu groups staged counter-protest against removal, but withdrew after panchayat leaders assured them of a new site by February 20.

Dalit groups claimed those who installed the Shivaji statue disconnected the CCTV connection and streetlights around 2 am. Interestingly, the site was opposite the local police station.

"It's been more than 30 years since the Ambedkar statue was installed here, and around 15 years ago Babu Jagjivan Ram's statue was added. Since then, it's been called Ambedkar & Jagjivan Ram junction," noted the state's SC & ST Commission member Chilakamarri Narasimha on Thursday

"Any statue requires permission from authorities. But in this case, we call them anti-social elements who installed the Shivaji statue overnight without permission. These groups want political mileage by installing Shivaji's statue," he added.

SC, ST, and BC leaders gathered in large numbers at the police station and protested, demanding action.

The protesters said they are not against the Shivaji statue, but opposed its placement where Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram's statues stood.

"We are ready to actively participate in installing the Shivaji statue at a new location," said a Dalit leader.

Lamborghini crash: Tobacco baron's son arrested, freed on bail within hours

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Four days after allegedly driving his Lamborghini into a crowd in a posh locality of Kanpur and injuring six people, Shivam Mishra, son of a tobacco baron, was arrested by the police. However, just hours later, he was released on bail by a district court after it was found that the police had not followed necessary legal procedures before effecting the arrest.

Shivam was granted bail on a personal bond of Rs 20,000 and an undertaking to cooperate with the investigation.

The prosecution opposed the bail plea and sought a 14-day remand of the accused, but the court rejected the request.

Shivam's lawyer argued that the Supreme Court's ruling in Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar was not followed by police while arresting the accused. The court observed that the police had failed to serve a notice under Section 35(3) before arresting him for a bailable offence.

Elaborate security arrangements were made at the court premises, with senior officials present during the hearing. The case had already triggered public outrage over alleged VIP treatment extended to the accused by the police, leading to the suspension of an SHO.

Shivam's lawyer claimed that he was not behind wheel when the incident occurred, though eyewitnesses said otherwise.

A video that surfaced on Wednesday purportedly showed Shivam driving the vehicle. On Tuesday, a senior police official in Kanpur said that it was Shivam Mishra who was driving when the car ploughed into a group of people in the city's Gwaltoli area on February 8, leaving six injured.

"It's a case of accident... No case is made out against Shivam as he was not driving the vehicle," the lawyer told reporters in Kanpur.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

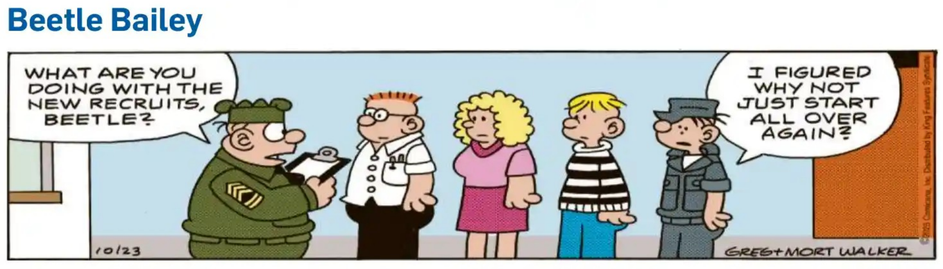
Blondie

I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE WATCHING TV SO LONG, MY LEGS HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP
I'LL BET TAKING OUT THE TRASH WOULD WAKE THEM UP, HONEY
ACTUALLY, IT WOULD SEEM WRONG TO WAKE THEM UP FROM SUCH A NICE NAP!

Hagar The Horrible

I'VE CAUSED HARM TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T DESERVE IT! WORST OF ALL, I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
HIRE A NEW COOK!

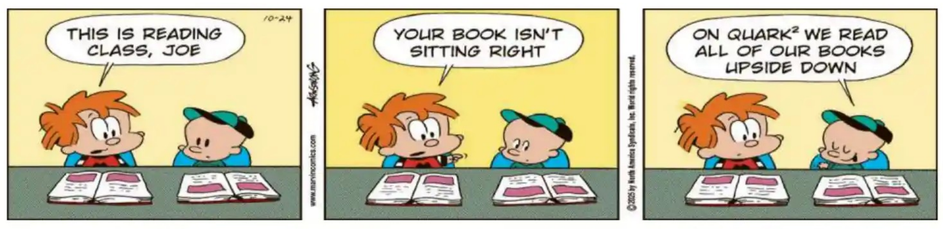
Beetle Bailey



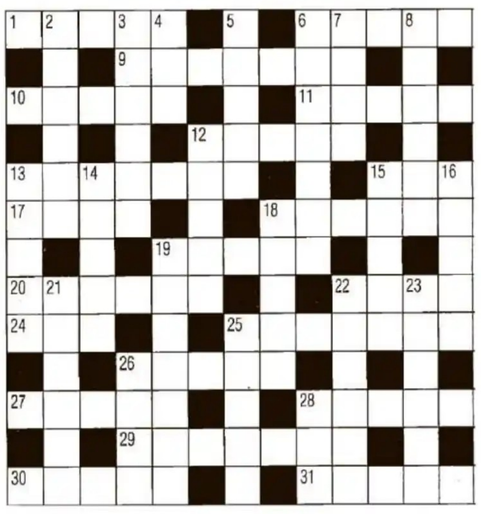
Peanuts

DON'T ANYBODY TALK TO ME!
SLAM
I'M MAD AT THE WHOLE WORLD!
DON'T ANYONE DO ANYTHING OR SAY ANYTHING!
I JUST WANT TO LIE IN MY BEAN BAG, AND SULK!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12353



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Gather about a hundred facts in summary (5)
6 There's a bighead on every Continental plage (5)
9 What a batsman (but not a footballer!) may like to be (7)
10 Leonard, characterised as an eerie trekker (5)
11 Noted horse the little chap urged on (5)
12 Aptly forms an aquarium exhibit (5)
13 Wise men see Capone as wonderful! (7)
15 Obscure Roman numerals (3)
17 I have a little sister at Oxford (4)
18 As a ballroom dance, possibly leave out "Tango" (6)
19 Old people seem'd strange (5)
20 Listed as repaired (6)
22 Basically a fertiliser (4)
24 Instant bronzing? (3)
25 A vessel to sink? (7)
26 Security device left at church (5)
27 A German mug (5)
28 Though saintly, is wrong one day (5)
29 It means a lot (7)
30 Journey to the end of the line for food (5)
31 Brief rest, perhaps, for an egghead (5)

DOWN
2 Shrubs from the Americas (6)
3 A fellow lives with a handsome chap (6)
4 At leaving the party, ask questions (3)
5 Abuse of pills by accident (5)
6 Insects let free, surrounded by bees (7)
7 Marginally nervous? (4)
8 Tick on the slate (6)
12 Trimmed, again, in the home (5)
13 Could be armed force (5)
14 Allocated a soldier a number of points (5)
15 Given a hand in school, perhaps (5)
16 Fat girl? (5)
18 The plant Victor has to draw (5)
19 She may seem alien to me (7)
21 A key plant, for a time (6)
22 Poms may find it unspeakable! (6)
23 Suffers to become sallow! (6)
25 Go up for a bit of fish (5)
26 Figure a politician will make slow progress (4)
28 Shot breathlessly in the boozer (3)

ACROSS
1 Inexpensive (5)
6 Reek (5)
9 Interval of rest (7)
10 Play (5)
11 Rage (5)
12 Perform (5)
13 Overlook (7)
15 Elderly (3)
17 Region (4)
18 Monetary note, commonly (6)
19 Facial hair (5)
20 Sportsman (6)
22 Cleaning substance (4)
24 Slippery fish (3)
25 Protection (7)
26 Yearned (5)
27 Tree (5)
28 Metal fastener (5)
29 Calm (7)
30 Charred remains (5)
31 Ship's bed (5)

DOWN
2 Terror (6)
3 Fleet (6)
4 Vegetable (3)
5 Backbone (5)
6 Piled tidily (7)
7 Canvas shelter (4)
8 Sewing implement (6)
12 Go in (5)
13 Reason (5)
14 Asian country (5)
15 Edible bulb (5)
16 Hang (5)
18 Attempted (5)
19 Sandy areas (7)
21 Greek dishes (6)
22 Doting (6)
23 Take (6)
25 Hollows (5)
26 Area of land (4)
28 Scour (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12352

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Mob-bed 7, Mata Hari 8, Shorts 10, T-read 13, Seat 14, Yard 15, Pert 16, Cab 17, Op.-EN 19, Bras 21, Great-coat 23, Buns 24, Foxy 26, Pa-y 27, Troy 29, Only 32, Lear 33, Snake 34, Intern 35, Gulliver 36, Fringe.
DOWN: 1, Am-it-y 2, Utter 3, Shad(well) 4, Miser 5, B-O-ot 6, Extras 9, Hatbox 11, (the) Rag 12, Ado-RN 13, S-ent fo-r 15, Pea 16, Cat 18, Pe-St-er 20, Rayon 21, Guy 22, Coy. 23, Banner 25, Elk 28, Range 30, Na-V-vy 31, Y-earn 32, Lean 33, Silk.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Throat 7, Oilcloth 8, Rental 10, Glory 13, Tent 14, Same 15, Shed 16, Nib 17, Rake 19, Epic 21, Music hall 23, Pink 24, Hare 26, Baa 27, Foot 29, Avid 32, Go up 33, Stare 34, Waders 35, Tireless 36, Assess.
DOWN: 1, Songs 2, Gloom 3, Clay 4, Three 5, Runt 6, Arabic 9, Endear 11, Lad 12, Rerun 13, The chop 15, Ski 16, Nil 18, Ask for 20, Pleat 21, Mia 22, Hat 23, Pagans 25, Fir 28, Ousts 30, Valet 31, Dense 32, Gene 33, Step.

◆SU-DO-KU-6829◆

6		8			2			
	4			3	7			
7	5		8		9	3		
2						4		
		1	2		5	6		
		6						9
		7	5		8		6	3
			1				8	
			7			5		1

hard

4	6	3	9	8	5	7	2	1
9	7	5	6	2	1	8	4	3
8	2	1	4	3	7	5	6	9
1	8	7	2	5	3	6	9	4
2	9	6	8	1	4	3	5	7
3	5	4	7	9	6	2	1	8
5	3	8	1	4	2	9	7	6
7	4	2	3	6	9	1	8	5
6	1	9	5	7	8	4	3	2

SOLUTION TO 6828

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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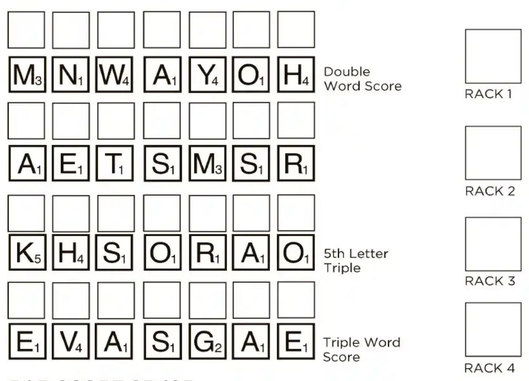

M3 N1 W4 A1 Y4 O1 H4
Double Word Score
A1 E1 T1 S1 M3 S1 R1
K5 H4 S1 O1 R1 A1 O1
5th Letter Triple
E1 V4 A1 S1 G2 A1 E1
Triple Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 95-105
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

C3 E1 N1 T1 R1 U1 M3 — RACK 1 = 61
S1 L1 E1 A1 Z10 Y4 — RACK 2 = 54
L1 Y4 M3 P3 H4 — RACK 3 = 23
O1 B3 L1 I1 G2 E1 D2 — RACK 4 = 72
JUDD'S TOTAL 210

PAR SCORE 135-145

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

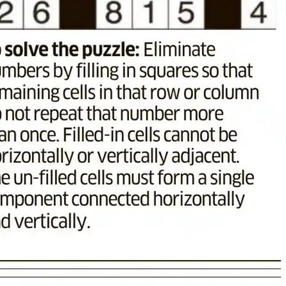
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VRCEU

ULDFI

SRENUU

RUFGEI


Phew! How many years have we been doing this?
In dog or human years?
8/5
THE DOGS WERE FINALLY FINISHED WITH THEIR FIGHT AND WERE BACK TO BEING ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____-_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWIRL DOUGH BANNER DOCTOR
Answer: When the plumber got a call early Saturday, his weekend plans went — DOWN THE DRAIN

HITORI-3283

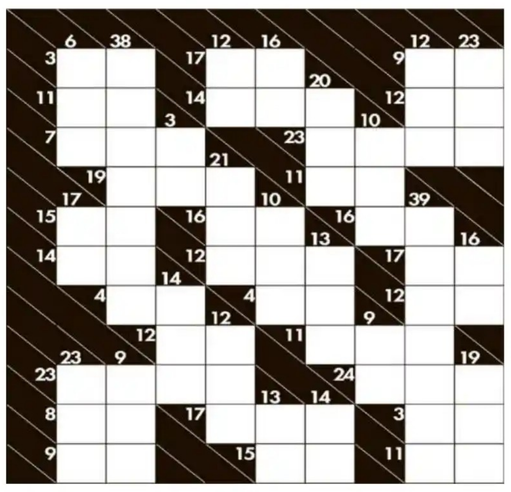
2	3	7	5	1	4	6	3
7	8	7	3	3	2	7	1
3	5	2	3	8	6	1	4
1	3	3	6	2	1	7	5
3	1	6	1	4	5	3	2
6	3	1	4	5	2	3	7
4	3	3	2	3	1	8	3
5	3	8	7	3	4	2	6

SOLUTION TO 3282

3	5	8	■	4	7	2	■
■	8	1	2	■	4	■	3
8	■	2	■	6	3	7	1
5	2	6	4	7	■	3	8
■	7	3	■	2	8	1	■
4	3	7	1	■	2	6	5
1	■	5	6	8	■	4	2
2	6	■	8	1	5	■	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3283



SOLUTION TO 3282

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3826

■	7			8	6			■
	■			4			■	
8		■				■		
	2		5		9	7		3
6	1			■	8		9	
			■		■			2
	3	6	9			■		
5	■					■		
■		7						4

SOLUTION TO 3825

9	4	7	1	3	6	8	5	2
1	3	8	5	9	2	7	6	4
6	2	5	8	7	4	1	3	9
8	7	2	6	5	3	9	4	1
3	5	1	9	4	8	6	2	7
4	9	6	7	2	1	3	8	5
7	6	9	4	8	5	2	1	3
2	8	4	3	1	9	5	7	6
5	1	3	2	6	7	4	9	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

30 Tamili and Prakrit scripts reveal 2,000-yr-old India-Egypt trade

Inscriptions imply people from Indian subcontinent visited ancient Egypt capital

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

About 30 inscriptions in Indian languages, primarily Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) and Prakrit, have been discovered from the rock-cut tombs in the Valley of Kings, a renowned Unesco World Heritage site, in Egypt, providing yet another clinching evidence of ancient trade links between India and the West Asian country about 2,000 years ago.

Among the inscriptions found in six rock-cut tombs, 20 are in Tamili, and the remaining 10 are in Sanskrit and Prakrit, implying that people from several regions of the Indian subcontinent were visiting Egypt, specifically the Valley of Kings within the ancient capital of Thebes, between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD to trade spices and other goods.

One of the inscriptions found in Egypt. DH PHOTO

Prof Ingo Strauch, Department of Slavic and South Asian Studies (SLAS), Lausanne, Switzerland, and Prof Charlotte Schmid, EFEO, Paris, made the disclosure at an international conference on Tamil Epigraphy organised by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA).

Cikai Korran (Sigai Korran in modern Tamil), believed to be a trader who spoke Tamil and sailed from the ancient Tamilagam, has inscribed his name eight times in about five of the six tombs, in a significant discovery by the two researchers. "I could not believe finding Tamili inscriptions in Egypt. The tombs have been visited regularly by hundreds of thousands of people, but nobody found them. Cikai Korran was inscribed in tomb number 14, and the interesting part is that there was only one graffiti in the whole tomb, which is about 6 metres tall," Ingo Strauch told *DH*.

Ingo Strauch first found the Indian-language inscription in 2024, and he, along with Charlotte Schmid, has since uncovered 30 inscriptions. Prof Charlotte Schmid termed the findings "really extraordinary," because the 20 Tamili inscriptions found in Egypt represent a significant addition to the roughly 100 Tamili inscriptions found in India.

"This find raises questions about script usage, literacy, and why fewer inscriptions exist locally. It could well be due to the medium used, and trade practices of merchant communities like those of Korran, or limited readership and writing among certain groups," she told *DH*.

It has been established that Romans craved Indian luxuries like pepper, Prof K Rajan, academic advisor, TNSDA, told *DH*, adding that the new findings further demonstrate the trade links with ancient India and the Roman empire, and reopen debates on Tamil Brahmi's role in early literacy and cultural exchanges.

SC raps Jairam Ramesh over plea on ex post facto clearances

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday came down heavily on Congress leader Jairam Ramesh for challenging the grant of ex post facto environmental clearances by filing a writ petition, despite a judgment rendered by the apex court.

Jairam Ramesh

The bench, while declining to entertain the plea, asked how a writ petition could be filed when the SC, in the Vanashakti review judgment, had approved the Union government's office memoranda on ex post facto ECs.

The court asked the MP's counsel to establish how his writ petition was maintainable. "Don't try to take left and right. Basically, we know the design behind these writ petitions. There was a judgment which has been set aside by the larger bench. Now, you are indirectly filing a review petition. You want to say through a writ petition that the judgment is wrong. Why don't you say it directly?" the bench told the counsel.

The counsel contended that the ex post facto clearances are "wrong" and that the cause of action arose only after the judgment, "so I could only file after the judgment". The bench said, "When the judgment was delivered by this court, the government, in compliance with that judgment, issued a notification."

The bench said that the petitioner should be ready for exemplary cost. "Filing for just media...if you are aggrieved by the judgment, then you know your remedy. How can you seek review of a judgment through a writ petition," the bench asked.

'Why denigrate a section?' SC raps filmmaker over title

Court orders change of film's name before Netflix release

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday reproached filmmaker Neeraj Pandey over his film 'Ghooskhor Pandat', saying, "You cannot denigrate a section of society by using such a title."

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan asked him to come up with another title while hearing a plea seeking a stay on the release of the Manoj Bajpayee-starrer film on the OTT platform Netflix.

The bench said the court cannot permit any section of society to be denigrated by the title of the film or other offensive material.

"Why should you denigrate anybody? It is against morality and public order. Being woke is one thing, but creating this kind of unrest when there is already unrest in the country... We thought filmmakers, journalists, etc, are all responsible people and are aware of the exceptions and reasonable restrictions of Article 19 (1) (a) (freedom of speech and expression)," the bench said.

The bench asked the film producer to state what names he was suggesting for the title change.

"No section of society should be denigrated. As far back as the late 40s, the framers of the Constitution were aware of the multitude of races, castes, etc. So they introduced the concept of fraternity. If you use your freedom to denigrate any section of society, we cannot permit it," the bench observed.

The court issued notices to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Central Board of Film Certification and Pandey on the plea against the movie.

Taking up the PIL filed by Atul Mishra, National Organisation Secretary of the Brahman Samaj of India, the bench asked, "Why should you denigrate a section of society by using such a title? This is against morality and public order. We will not allow you to release the film unless you tell us the changed title."

The court directed Pandey to file an affidavit stating that the film 'Ghooskhor Pandat' does not denigrate any section of society.

RERA facilitating defaulting builders, better to abolish: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed its disappointment with the functioning of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in many states, saying it was high time that all the states rethought their constitution, as the institution was doing nothing except facilitating defaulting builders.

The bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that RERA was not doing any other services except facilitating builders in default. "It is better just to abolish this institution (RERA)," said the bench. It also stressed that the people for whom RERA was actually created were "completely depressed, disgusted, and disappointed".

The bench was hearing a plea filed by Himachal Pradesh against the HC order, which stayed the decision of the state government to shift the RERA office from Shimla to Dharamshala. It allowed the plea to shift the RERA office to the place of its choice.

Will not allow anyone to touch Aravallis: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it would not allow "anyone to touch the Aravallis", and that projects could only be considered on the basis of a comprehensive, scientifically grounded report prepared by a panel of experts.

It emphasised that the Aravalli is a full range and "we will take a holistic view depending on all aspects of the Aravalli as a composite range".

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi was hearing interim applications filed in the long-pending 1995 PIL titled 'In Re: TN Godavarman Thirumulpad'.

The matter pertained to the Aravalli Zoo Safari project.

Counsel for the Haryana government submitted that the safari project had already been restricted to 3,300 acres and that the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) was yet to be examined.

"We will not grant any permission for even a single inch today," the SC said.

"We are not permitting anything, and we do not want the platform of this court... I am sorry to say, I am using blunt language. Sometimes some friendly matches also take place here... therefore, we have to be cautious, and that is the reason I want to refer some matters back to the high courts," the bench added.

'NOT AN INCH'

- SC bars any activity in Aravalli range "for now"
- Stresses holistic view of Aravalli as a composite range
- Matter linked to Aravalli Zoo Safari project in Haryana
- State says safari restricted to 3,300 acres; revised DPR pending
- SC says, "Not an inch today"

The Haryana state counsel insisted that the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) could examine the revised DPR. The bench, however, said the committee was selective in its opinions and that it did not want the CEC to undertake the examination.

The state government contended that the Aravalli hills matter was altogether different and that it was not proceeding further with the safari project.

"An action to form a DPR and seek its consideration by the CEC is a step towards establishing the safari," the SC observed.

"We are examining the entire issue comprehensively. The Aravalli neither starts nor ends in Haryana. It neither starts nor ends in Rajasthan. The Aravalli is a complete range, and we will take a holistic view considering all aspects of the Aravalli as a composite range."

The bench also asked, "At whose instance were these applications filed?"

A counsel informed the SC that five of the applicants were former forest officers, two of them belonging to the Haryana cadre.

The Haryana counsel argued that the safari project was not intended for commercial purposes or mining.

The SC, however, said, "We will not permit anything today. We are absolutely firm."

Strike gets mixed response; unions say 30 cr joined protest

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI: Trade unions on Thursday claimed that at least 30 crore workers and farmers, among others, joined the general strike across the country against the "anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national pro-corporate policies" of the Union government, demanding withdrawal of Labour Codes, even as reports suggested that there was a mixed response to the protest.

The general strike call brought Kerala to a standstill, while there was a mixed response in Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. In several places, public transport was impacted while markets, educational institutions, and business establishments were affected as major roads, including national and state highways, were blocked.

Demonstrators hold placards during a day-long strike in Mumbai. REUTERS

Opposition MPs staged a protest in Parliament House complex in solidarity with striking workers and farmers.

The trade unions said more than 30 crore workers, farmers and other sections joined the general strike, which saw "massive mobilisations" throughout the country across all sectors.

In Kerala, the state government had declared a dies non for government employees, but attendance at offices remained low as transport vehicles kept off the roads.

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Sd/-Executive Secretary

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-571234
ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08276200643, 08276200645
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ itstaff_ulb_kushalnagar@yahoo.com

ನಂ:ಪು.ಕು/ತಾ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್-40/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-02-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ (SMIDP) ಮತ್ತು ಪುರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಹಾಗು ನಿಯಮ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಯಮ 2001ಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ- 1, 2 & 3 ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗನುಸಾರ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ka.kushalnagar.tmc@gmail.com

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27-02-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02-03-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

1. DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 54561, 54641, 54701, 54708, 54739, 54738, 55015, 54036, 54101, 54236, 54237, 54242, 54245, 54355, 54417, 54413, 54451, 54914, 54937, 54927, 54764, 54943.
2. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 54571, 54617, 54633, 54646, 54512, 54732, 54968, 54208, 54246, 54977, 54441, 54419, 54911, 54928, 54935, 54941, 54926
3. DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 54211.
4. DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 54253, 54268, 53648.

ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀ. ನಿತೀನ್ ಚಕ್ಕಿ, ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ

ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀ. ಗಿರೀಶ್ ಟಿ.ಎಸ್, ಕೆ.ಎಮ್.ಎ.ಎಸ್
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಸಿ.ಎ ನಿವೇಶನ ಖಾತ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:31-511-371, ವಾರ್ಡ್ ನಂ-20, ಅಂಬಿಕಾ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಸೌತೇಗೌಡನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಸೂಲಿಬೆಲೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಟೌನ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562110

ಸಂ.: ಬಿಐಎಪಿಎ/ಟಿಪಿ/ಎಂಐಎಸ್/ಅನಧಿಕೃತ/03/2020-21/25-26/3032 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.01.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 4 (ಸಿ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂ : ಹೆಚ್‌ಯುಡಿ 142 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಎಲ್ 95 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12/01/1996 ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತವಾದ ಶಾಸನಬದ್ಧ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶವು 430.70 ಚ.ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಸಬಾ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ಕುಂದಾಣ, ಚನ್ನರಾಯಪಟ್ಟಣ ಹೋಬಳಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು 188 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಯಲಹಂಕ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಾಲ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ 35 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 223 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14, 15 ಮತ್ತು 17 ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ, ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಬಡಾವಣೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಪೂರ್ವಾನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಲಹಂಕ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಜಾಲ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಹುಣಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ (02 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) ಹಾಗೂ ಹಲವು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳು ಇರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ 17 (2ಎ) ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ವಸತಿ / ವಸತಿಯೇತರ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ನಕ್ಷೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದು, ತದನಂತರ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ವಸತಿ / ವಸತಿಯೇತರ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ನಕ್ಷೆಯ ಅನುಸಾರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಗತಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ / ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳಿಂದ ನಿರಾಕ್ಷೇಪಣಾ ಪತ್ರ / ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ಪಡೆದು ಸದರಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಕಲಂ 17(2-ಬಿ) ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ವಸತಿ / ವಸತಿಯೇತರ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ನಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇ.100 ರಷ್ಟು ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರವೇ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾತೆ ತೆರೆಯಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ರೀತಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಸದೇ ಮತ್ತು ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ನಕ್ಷೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆಯದೇ ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿ ವಿಂಗಡಿಸಿರುವ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ಇತರೆ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಇಲಾಖೆ / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಂತಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 76-ಎಂ(2)(ಬಿ) ರಂತೆ ಊರ್ಜಿತವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು / ಜಂಟಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿದಾರರು / ಜಿಪಿಎದಾರರು ಅನೇಕ ವಸತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳನ್ನು ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಂದ ದೂರುಗಳು ಸಹಾ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ವಸತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿದಾರರು ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳಾದ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಟದ ಮೈದಾನ, ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸದೇ ಇರುವುದು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಶುಲ್ಕಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸದೇ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿದಾರರು ವಂಚನೆ ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ / ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಪರವಾನಗಿ, ಖಾತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ದೊರೆಯದೇ ವಂಚಿತರಾಗುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ರಿಯಲ್ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್ (ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ) ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2016 ರ ಕಲಂ 3(2) ರನ್ವಯ 8 ಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಸತಿ ಘಟಕಗಳು / ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅಥವಾ 500 ಚ.ಮೀ ಗಿಂತಲೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣವುಳ್ಳ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ರಿಯಲ್ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್ (ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ) ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಮೊದಲು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವಾದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ನಕ್ಷೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 15 ಹಾಗೂ 17 ರಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮಜರುಗಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಂಗಡಿಸಲಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾದ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ವಸತಿ ಸಮುಚ್ಚಯ / ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಮುಚ್ಚಯ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ / ವೇರ್‌ಹೌಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ವಸತಿ / ವಸತಿಯೇತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಲಾದ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಬಾರದೆಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಕಾಗೂ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಮೋಸ ಹೋದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದರಿಂದ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ನಷ್ಟ / ತೊಂದರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಸಹಾ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅಪರ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬಿಎಂಆರ್‌ಡಿಎ ರವರ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬಿಎಂಆರ್‌ಡಿಎ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/32/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05/06/2025 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಎ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗುವ ಸಿ.ಎ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳ ಅತಿಕ್ರಮಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಳ ದೂರು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ / ತನಿಖೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ವಿಶೇಷ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳು ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್‌ನ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ **ಆರಕ್ಷಕ ಉಪಾಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಉಪಾಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರತ ಪಡೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು**ರವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ನಿವೇಶನ / ವಸತಿ ಘಟಕಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಪೂರ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮಬದ್ಧ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಕುರಿತು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಮೂಲ ಅಂಶಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ತಪ್ಪದೇ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಖಾತ್ರಿಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

- ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ಜಮೀನುಗಳು ಭೂಕಂದಾಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
- ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ನಕ್ಷೆಗಳಿಗೆ / ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ನಕ್ಷೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
- ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಅಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಘಟಕಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ನಕ್ಷೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಕ್ಷೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
- ಯೋಜನೆಯು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಿಯಲ್ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-, ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಎಲ್‌ಸಿ/
5619/2025-26

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY, KALABURAGI
Examination Branch, "Jnana Ganga" KALABURAGI-585 106, Karnataka, India,
Phone.08472-263203,Fax:08472-263207, E-mail:regegug@rediffmail.com

No.GUK/Exam-Store/241/answerpaper/2025-26/3052 Date:05.02.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

Name of the work : Tender for online scanning screening and digital evaluation of answer papers, Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi. Availability of Tender Document : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** Date of publishing Tender Document on e-Procurement Platfrom : **05.02.2026,** EMD Submission in online : **2,50,000/-,** Last date and time for submission of Tender : **06.03.2026,** Pre bid meeting date and time : **02.03.2026 11.30 am,** Opening of Technical bid Tender : **09.03.2026**, Opening of Financial bid : **11.03.2026** or Finalized technical committee, Tender periode : 02 Years, Place of openingof tender : The Registrar Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi.

Sd- Registrar (Evaluation)
Gulbarga University Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1076/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾವಿನೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570020

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ/ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಸ.ಅ/ಟಿಎನ್-24/1088/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.02.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ / ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ KTPP ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	kw-1 & kw-4 & Service Tender	10 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	180.85	12.02.2026	27.02.2026	02.03.2026
2	Kw-4	01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	500.00	13.02.2026	02.03.2026	03.03.2026
3	Kw-1 & Kw-2	03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	96.45	12.02.2026	19.02.2026	20.02.2026

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1655/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer, PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka . Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2025-26 /2887 **Date: 11/02/2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4, under head of account 2025-26 CMIDP, Other heads in different talukas of Koppal district . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.

General instructions:- 1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2).Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3)3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.This notified works can be downloaded in http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal .

1) Construction of Road from Mandalageri to Malekoppa in Kukanoor Taluk Koppal District. IND 21285 CALL-2 APT 7957565.8 EMD 159500 6 Months
2) Construction of Road From Chittapura village to Hanaval up to Taluka Border in Kukanoor Taluka of Koppal District. IND 21176 CALL-2 APT 7958646.22EMD 159500 6 Months

Tender Processing Fees As per E-Procurement Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal From **13.02.2026** time after 10.00 AM upto **20.02.2026** time 16.00 Hours. Tender Receipt last dates From **13.02.2026** time 11.00 AM upto **20.02.2026** Time 16.30 hrs Technical Bid open date and time(Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 Works **21.02.2026** in office hours. Financial Bid open date and time For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened

Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PRE Division Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/672/KSMCA-2025-26

India keeps options open as B'desh votes without Awami League

New Delhi signals readiness to work with BNP-led government

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Even as Bangladesh went to the polls without the Awami League – the party that had swept the last four elections – India on Thursday kept its options open while reiterating that it had called for an inclusive and credible contest for the people's mandate in the neighbouring nation.

New Delhi hopes to maintain a functional, albeit somewhat uncertain, relationship with Dhaka if the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by Tarique Rahman, comes to power, as indicated by early trends. Jamaat-e-Islami, which appears to be trailing the BNP, has never been a favourite in New Delhi, given its radical ideology as well as its history of hostility towards India and proximity to Pakistan.

"We should wait for the outcome of the elections to see what sort of mandate has emerged and, thereafter, we would look at the issues," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said when journalists asked for New Delhi's views on the elections in Bangladesh. "On the election per se, you know what our position has been. We stand for free, fair, inclusive and credible elections in Bangladesh."

Muhammad Yunus's interim government in Dhaka had banned the Awami League, led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, on May 10, 2025. The party had also been barred from contesting the elections. New Delhi has been calling for "inclusive elections", tacitly signalling its displeasure over the move to ban the Awami League, which was accused by its political rivals of being pro-India.

However, as the BNP was predicted to have an edge in the elections, New Delhi over the past few months reached out to its leadership, signalling India's intent to build a new relationship with the party that might come to power.

New Delhi has also indicated its willingness to work with a BNP-led government in Dhaka, provided the new regime remains sensitive to India's core security interests. The rise of Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh will continue to concern India, even if the radical party ends up as the main Opposition.

Dhaka's relations with New Delhi had come under strain during the three terms of the late BNP supremo Khaleda Zia as prime minister between 1991 and 2008. Her government had allowed militant organisations operating in India's northeastern states to set up camps in Bangladesh. She also turned down New Delhi's request for connectivity through Bangladesh between India's landlocked northeastern states and the mainland. Her party, the BNP, until a few months ago criticised New Delhi for allowing the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and other Awami League leaders to stay in India and allegedly hatch a conspiracy to destabilise Bangladesh. As Khaleda Zia's health deteriorated and she was placed on a ventilator in a hospital in Dhaka from November 23, New Delhi on December 1 offered support for her medical care. "As the first woman prime minister of Bangladesh, her important contributions towards the development of Bangladesh, as well as India-Bangladesh relations, will always be remembered," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X after her demise on December 30. "I recall my warm meeting with her in Dhaka in 2015. We hope that her vision and legacy will continue to guide our partnership."

Khaleda Zia, the first female prime minister of Bangladesh, had led the BNP – founded by her husband Ziaur Rahman in 1978 – until her imprisonment in graft cases in 2018. Her son, Tarique Rahman, who has been the de facto leader of the BNP for the past seven years, recently returned to Dhaka after a 17-year exile in London and formally took over as party chairman after his 80-year-old mother passed away.

After Khaleda Zia's demise, Modi sent External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Dhaka. He not only attended her funeral but also met Tarique Rahman. Jaishankar handed over a personal condolence letter from Modi to Rahman, but returned to New Delhi without calling on Yunus.

A source in New Delhi told *DH* that India would expect the new government in Bangladesh to deal firmly with radical Islamists, stop atrocities against minority communities, and take into account India's sensitivities while pursuing ties with Pakistan and China. Dhaka's demand for the extradition of Sheikh Hasina, who has been living in India since fleeing Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, however, would continue to be an irritant in bilateral ties.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman Tarique Rahman votes inside a polling station in Dhaka on Thursday. REUTERS

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Shafiqur Rahman casts his vote in Dhaka on Thursday. REUTERS

Interim government Chief Adviser M Yunus shows his ballot inside a polling station in Dhaka. REUTERS

KEY FIGURES

- The 350-member Parliament (300 elected seats) will choose a government for five years, in what is largely a contest between the BNP and an alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami, following the ban on the Awami League.
- Bangladesh has a first-past-the-post multiparty electoral system in which the candidate who receives the most votes wins. To secure a majority, a party or coalition must get 151 seats.
- Over 5 million first-time voters are expected to play a decisive role in the first election since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina in 2024.

A well-planned farce: Hasina

Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday called the general elections held by the interim government "a well-planned farce" and demanded the holding of "free, fair and inclusive elections under a neutral caretaker government", PTI reports from New Delhi/Dhaka.

"The people's voting rights, democratic values and the spirit of the Constitution were completely disregarded in this deceptive, voterless election conducted without the Awami League," said Hasina, who has been staying in India since fleeing Bangladesh, in a statement published on her social media account.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni reacts as she speaks with France's President Emmanuel Macron during the Informal EU Leaders' Retreat in Rijkhoven, Belgium, on Thursday. AFP

Kim's daughter close to being designated as future leader

▶ South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers on Thursday that it believes the teenage daughter of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is close to being designated as the country's future leader as he moves to extend the family dynasty to a fourth generation, AP/PTI reports from Seoul.

The assessment by the National Intelligence Service comes as North Korea is preparing to hold its biggest political conference later this month, where Kim is expected to outline his major policy goals for the next five years and take steps to tighten his authoritarian grip. In a closed-door briefing, NIS officials said they are closely monitoring whether Kim's daughter - believed to be named Kim Ju Ae and around 13 years old - appears with him before thousands of delegates at the upcoming Workers' Party Congress, said lawmaker Lee Seong Kweun, who attended the meeting. First appearing in public at a long-range missile test in November 2022, Kim Ju Ae has since accompanied her father to an increasing number of events.

Kim Ju Ae

Trump vs BBC trial set for 2027

▶ A US judge said President Donald Trump's $10 billion lawsuit against the BBC can go to trial in 2027, AP/PTI reports from London.

Judge Roy K. Altman of the federal court for the Southern District of Florida rejected an attempt by Britain's national broadcaster to delay proceedings. He set a February 2027 trial date. Trump filed a lawsuit in December over the way the BBC edited a speech he gave on January 6, 2021. The claim seeks $5 billion in damages for defamation and $5 billion for unfair trade practices. The speech took place before some of Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol as Congress was poised to certify President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election.

Demonstrators shield themselves behind a banner reading "Labor reform kills my freedom" during a protest in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Wednesday. AFP

India gifts 270 vehicles to Nepal

▶ India on Thursday handed over the third tranche of election-related assistance, including 270 vehicles, to Nepal, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

India's ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava handed over the third tranche to Nepal Home Minister Om Prakash Aryal at a function held at the Home Ministry. It included 270 vehicles, including 50 trucks, for the Nepal Army and other supplies, in line with the assistance sought by Nepal for preparations related to the March 5 elections, according to a press release issued by the Indian embassy. The first two tranches of such election-related assistance, consisting of over 310 vehicles and other supplies from India, were handed over to Nepal in January.

Imran complains of loss of vision

▶ Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan is reportedly facing a loss of vision in his right eye and has complained about denial of health services in jail while showing satisfaction with the security and food being provided, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Advocate Salman Safdar, who was appointed amicus curiae to visit Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, formally submitted to the Supreme Court on Wednesday a report regarding incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Khan's living conditions amid concern from his party. The party shared the eight-page report, providing a rare window to look at the drab jail life of a man who was once a heartthrob for many during his days as a cricketer.

Seattle settles for $29 million over Indian student's death

NEW YORK, PTI: The family of an Indian student, who was killed in January 2023 after being struck by a police vehicle in Seattle, has reached a $29 million (Rs 260 crore) settlement with the city.

Jaahnavi Kandula, 23, was hit by a police vehicle driven by Seattle Police Officer Kevin Dave as she was crossing a street on January 23, 2023.

Dave was driving at 74 mph (over 119 km/h) in response to a report of a drug overdose. Kandula was thrown about 100 feet after being struck by the vehicle. The PubliCola web portal reported that the Seattle City Attorney's Office reached a settlement last week with Kandula's family. "Jaahnavi Kandula's death was heartbreaking, and the city hopes this financial settlement brings some sense of closure to the Kandula family," city attorney Erika Evans said.

"We also recognise that her loss has left unimaginable pain. Jaahnavi Kandula's life mattered. It mattered to her family, to her friends, and to our community," she added.

US warns Peru over China's control of key port

Trump administration raises sovereignty concerns

LIMA, AP/PTI

The Trump administration on Wednesday expressed concern that China was undermining Peru's sovereignty by solidifying control over the South American nation's critical infrastructure, a blunt warning that followed a Peruvian court ruling restricting a local regulator's oversight of a Chinese-built mega port.

The $1.3 billion deepwater port in Chancay, north of Peru's capital, Lima, has become a symbol of China's foothold in Latin America and a lightning rod for tensions with Washington.

The US State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs said on social media that it was "concerned about the latest reports that Peru could be powerless to oversee Chancay, one of its largest ports, which is under the jurisdiction of predatory Chinese owners".

It added: "We support Peru's sovereign right to oversee critical infrastructure in its own territory. Let this be a cautionary tale for the region and the world: cheap Chinese money costs sovereignty."

The concern comes as the Trump administration seeks to assert dominance over the Western Hemisphere, where China has long built influence through loans and trade.

China on Thursday strongly rejected the US comments. "China firmly opposes and strongly deplores the US's blatant rumour-mongering and smearing of Chancay port," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing in Beijing.

Chancay, along the Pacific coast, is part of Beijing's Belt and Road initiative, an infrastructure programme that has seen Chinese state-owned banks offer loans or financial guarantees to construct seaports, airports and highways, among other projects.

An aerial view of the mega port in the small town of Chancay, 78 km north of Lima. AFP FILE

Trump backs down on immigration raids in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, AP/PTI

The immigration crackdown in Minnesota that led to mass detentions, protests and two deaths is coming to an end, border tsar Tom Homan said on Thursday.

"As a result of our efforts here, Minnesota is now less of a sanctuary state for criminals," Homan said at a news conference.

"I have proposed, and President Trump has concurred, that this surge operation be concluded," he continued.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement launched Operation Metro Surge on December 1.

Federal authorities say the sweeps focused on the Minneapolis-St Paul metro area have led to the arrest of more than 4,000 people. While the Trump administration has described those arrested as "dangerous criminal illegal aliens", many people with no criminal records, including children and US citizens, have also been detained.

Democratic Governor Tim Walz said on Tuesday that he expected Operation Metro Surge to end in "days, not weeks and months", based on his conversations with senior Trump administration officials. He told reporters he spoke this week with both Homan and White House chief of staff Susie Wiles.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey also said he had a "positive meeting" with Homan on Monday and discussed the potential for a further drawdown of federal officers.

Homan took over the Minnesota operation in late January after the second fatal shooting by federal immigration agents and amid growing political backlash and questions about how the operation was being run.

"We're very much in a trust-but-verify mode," Walz said, adding that he expected to hear more from the administration "in the next day or so" about the future of what he described as an "occupation" and a "retribution campaign" against the state.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA.
Public Works Department.
Executive Engineer, Publice Works (North) Divison, Jalgaon-425001 Phone No. 0257-2239408
email-northjalgaon.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No.24 For-2025-26

(Maharashtra Government, Public Works Department, Mantralaya Mumbai GR.Kr./Misc-2022/Pra.Kra.104/Building-2 Date. 14/02/2025 According to Short Tender Notice)

Online Tenders (e-tender) in **"B-2"** form for **1 (One) Road Works** are invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. (North) Division, Jalgaon for and behalf of Government of Maharashtra, Electonic Tender Management System. http://mahatenders.gov.in from Reputed and experienced firms / Contractors who fulfil the terms and condition of tender and having experience of similar type of work. The rights are reserve to reject all or any tender by Superitending Engineer/ Executive Engineer. Conditional tenders are not acceptable.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online from **09/02/2026 to 16/02/2026 at 17.00 Hrs.** directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Protal http://mahatenders.gov.in and **Pre-bid meeting** for will be held on **dated 12/02/2026 at 12.00 Hrs.** in the Office of Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Nashik. This detailed tender notice is available on portal http://mahatenders.gov.in, also available on Notice Board of the Office of Executive Engineer, Public Works (North) Division, Jalgaon. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the website.

Sd/-
(M.P.Patil)
Executive Engineer,
Public Works (North) Division, Jalgaon.

DGIPR/2025-2026/5786

Israel to join Trump's Board of Peace

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: Israel will join US President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" initiative, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday during his visit to Washington, where he met Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

After meeting Rubio on Wednesday, Netanyahu posted on X that he "signed Israel's accession as a member of the Board of Peace." Netanyahu was in Washington to discuss Iran with Trump.

The UN Security Council resolution has authorised the board and countries working with it to establish an international stabilisation force in Gaza.

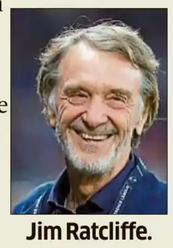
IMMIGRATION ISSUE

Co-owner of Manchester United apologises over 'colonised' remark

LONDON, PTI

A prominent British billionaire was forced to apologise on Thursday after a backlash from Prime Minister Keir Starmer and other political leaders for claiming that the UK had been "colonised by immigrants".

Jim Ratcliffe, one of the richest Britons as founder of the INEOS group and co-owner of the Manchester United football club, told 'Sky News' in an interview on Wednesday that Britain faces serious social and economic challenges due to a massive rise in immigration in recent years.



Jim Ratcliffe.

However, the 73-year-old businessman was forced to backtrack the following day and said he was "sorry" for his choice of language. "The UK has been colonised by immigrants, really, hasn't it? I mean, the population of the UK was 58 million in 2020, now it's 70 million. That's 12 million people," Ratcliffe said during the interview.

"You can't have an economy with 9 million people on benefits and huge levels of immigrants coming in. I mean, the UK has been colonised. It's costing too much money," he said. It triggered an instant reaction, with Starmer dubbing the remarks "offensive and wrong". "Britain is a proud, tolerant and diverse country. Jim Ratcliffe should apologise," he said in a social media post.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Manchester, also took to social media to condemn the comments as "inaccurate, insulting, inflammatory" that should be withdrawn because they go against everything the city stands for.

Carnival revellers celebrate "Weiberfastnacht" (Women's Carnival), marking the start of the street festivals in Cologne, Germany, on Thursday. REUTERS

Retail inflation rises to 2.75% in Jan on high tomato, gold prices

Govt releases first inflation data based on new CPI series

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Thursday released the first inflation data under the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with base year 2024, replacing the 2012-based index.

Under the new series, retail inflation in January stood at 2.75%. This is the highest level of retail inflation in eight months. Retail inflation stood at 1.33% in December 2025. In January 2025, it stood at 4.26%.

The headline retail inflation has risen above 2%, the Reserve Bank of India's lower tolerance band, for the first time since August 2025.

Retail food inflation for January has worked out to be 2.13%, with rural food inflation at 1.96% and urban food inflation at 2.44%, as per data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

Weight of volatile items such as food has been reduced in the new series. Under the old series, food and beverages together accounted for 45.9% of the CPI basket. In the new series, it has been reduced to 36.75%. Food prices (excluding beverages) carry a weight of 34.77% in the new CPI basket.

The CPI series base has been revised from 2012 to 2024, using Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24. "The exercise is being done for enhancing the coverage and representativeness of the inflation measure," the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said in a statement.

The number of weighted items has increased to 358 in the new series, from 299 in the old series. Goods items rose from 259 to 308, while services increased from 40 to 50.

Items that have been added in the new series include, rural housing, online media service provider/streaming services, value-added dairy products, barley & its product, pen-drive & external hard disk, attendant, babysitter and exercise equipment.

Items that have been removed from the CPI series include VCR/VCD/DVD player and hiring charges, radio, tape-recorder, clothing second-hand, CD/DVD audio/video cassettes and coir/rope.

The inclusion of rural house rent has been exclusively done for the first time. The rural house rent inflation stood at 3.2% in January 2026, which was more than the urban areas (1.9%), said Paras Jasrai, Associate Director, India Ratings and Research.

Tomatoes and gold were the key drivers of retail inflation in January. Price of tomatoes in January was 64.8% higher, when compared with the same month last year. Prices of other key vegetables such as onion, potato, garlic were in a deflation of 29.3%, 29% and 53%, respectively in January.

The core CPI in the new series stood at 3.4%. Going by the old series, core inflation in January comes out to be 4.15%, SBI Research said in a note.

"The decline in core is mainly due to the change in weightage in gold, which declined to 0.62% in 2024 series, compared to 1.08% in 2012 series," SBI Research added.

Among the states, highest inflation was recorded in Telangana at 4.92%. It was followed by Kerala 3.67%, Tamil Nadu 3.36%, Rajasthan 3.17%, and Karnataka 2.99%.

"With another CPI inflation print for February due to be released before the next MPC meeting, there may be some more clarity on interpreting the CPI data," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

HIGHEST LEVEL The January retail inflation of 2.75% is the highest level in eight months

1.96% Rural food inflation

2.44% Urban food inflation

2.13% Retail food inflation for Jan

3.4% Core CPI in the new series

64.8% Rise in tomato prices in Jan, compared with the same month last year

Among states, highest inflation was recorded in Telangana at **4.92%**. Karnataka clocked inflation of **2.99%**

India to get same garment duty benefits as B'desh: Goyal

Minister says US pact won't impact Indian cotton farmers

NEW DELHI, PTI

India will get concessional duty access for garments made using American yarn and cotton under its trade agreement with the US, similar to the benefits currently provided to Bangladesh, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

The US will reduce reciprocal tariffs on Bangladeshi goods to 19%, but garments attract zero duty only if made with US cotton and man-made fibres. A Bangladeshi garment now faces a 31% levy (12% for most-favoured nation-plus 19% reciprocal), and if it uses US fibres, then duty falls to 12%.

"Bangladesh ko jo mila hai, wo Bharat ko bhi milne wala hai final agreement me (Whatever Bangladesh has received, India will also get the same in the final agreement," Goyal told reporters, adding that it will not have any impact on Indian cotton farmers.

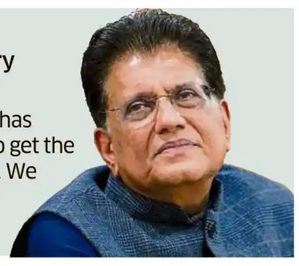
If an Indian company procures yarn forward and cotton forward from the US, manufactures garments, and reexports them to the US, those will also receive duty-free access in America, just like Bangladeshi firms, he pointed out. The US has limited cotton production, its exports are only $5 million, and for India, the target is $50 billion, the minister said.

"India and the US have finalised a framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement, which is likely to be implemented in March," he added. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had on Wednesday alleged that the India-US interim trade deal was a "wholesale surrender", with India's energy security handed over to America and farmers' interests compromised.

Meanwhile, addressing a medtech innovation and startup event, Goyal said the FTAs finalised by India will provide huge market access at concessional duties to the domestic medical devices industry. In some FTAs, certain Indian medical devices would also get duty concessions, he added.

"We are opening developed markets through the nine FTAs, which cover 38 countries with rich people and high per capita incomes," the minister said. He suggested looking for a site in states like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to establish a medtech zone just like the Andhra Pradesh Medical Technology Zone. Goyal added that the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) can look at reserving 50-100 acres for medical device units in the country.

PIYUSH GOYAL
Union Commerce and Industry Minister



"Whatever Bangladesh has received, India will also get the same in the final agreement... We are opening developed markets through the nine FTAs

Sensex tumbles 558 points

MUMBAI, PTI

The BSE Sensex fell 558 points on Thursday amid heavy selling in IT shares, as concerns over AI-led disruptions and waning hopes of a Fed rate cut after firm US economic data weighed on investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 558.72 points, or 0.66%, to settle at 83,674.92. During the day, it tanked 716.97 points, or 0.85%, to hit an intraday low of 83,516.67. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 146.65 points, or 0.57%, to end at 25,807.20.

Technology stocks led the slide, with Tech Mahindra, Infosys and TCS tumbling nearly 6% each to emerge as major laggards on the Sensex.

HCLTech, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, RIL, Eternal, HDFC Bank, IndiGo, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Adani Ports also ended in the red. On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Trent, Bharat Electronics Ltd, SBI, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel and Tata Steel were among the gainers.

Rupee rises 17 paise to close at 90.61 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee appreciated 17 paise to settle for the day at 90.61 against the US dollar on Thursday, as foreign fund investments lifted investor sentiments.

Forex traders said foreign fund inflows, while not massive, provided a psychological anchor. Moreover, the RBI has been quietly ensuring that liquidity remains abundant in the banking system, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.55 against the US dollar, and touched an intraday high of 90.40 and a low of 90.65 during the day.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.04% lower at 96.79.

Won't hear plea against fugitive tag until Mallya returns: HC

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Bombay High Court on Thursday asked fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya to "come back" to India and face the law, instead of challenging it from London.

The 70-year-old Mallya faces multiple cases in India related to fraud and money-laundering.

A division bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad took exception to Mallya's attempts to question the validity of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, without first submitting to or facing the Indian courts.

"You have to come back. If you cannot come back, then we cannot hear this plea," the bench said.

'Another oppportunity'

"We may have to record that you are avoiding the process of the court. You cannot take the benefit of the proceedings. In all fairness to you, we are not dismissing the petition, but giving you another opportunity," the court observed, taking strong exception to his absence in the court.

Vijay Mallya

The bench directed Mallya to file an affidavit clearly stating whether he intends to return. "When will you come? You (Mallya) have already argued that you are entitled to a hearing without your physical presence in a court of law. But first file an affidavit clearly stating so," Justice Chandrashekhar said.

"You are avoiding the process of the court, so you cannot take advantage of the present petition challenging the FEO Act," the court told senior advocate Amit Desai, appearing for Mallya.

Govt sanctions Rs 25 crore to set up 2,500 coffee kiosks

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has sanctioned Rs 25 crore for setting up 2,500 coffee kiosks (Akka Cafe), which will be operated by women trained under Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The initiative is aimed at strengthening the coffee value-chain and promoting economic empowerment through employment generation, said Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil on Thursday.

He was speaking after inaugurating the India International Coffee Festival (IICF), organised by the Specialty Coffee Association of India (SCAI) at Palace Grounds in the city.

The Coffee Board, in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihood Mission – Karnataka, is providing training in coffee brewing, cafe management and entrepreneurship to one lakh women associated with SHGs across the state. The government is also extending scholarships to children of workers employed in coffee estates and large plantations in Kodagu district, he added.

It is encouraging that coffee growers themselves are branding their produce and showcasing it at the festival, he said. At the 'Kala Loka' outlet set up by the Industries Department at Kempegowda International Airport, coffee is being showcased and sold alongside more than 45 other GI-tagged products from the state, with distinctive packaging and branding, he noted.

Coffee is cultivated over 2.2 lakh hectares in Karnataka, making the state the largest producer in the country.

CCI slaps Rs 27 cr fine on Intel for unfair biz practices

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a fine of Rs 27.38 crore on Intel Corp for indulging in anti-competitive practices with respect to India-specific warranty policy for its boxed microprocessors.

The penalty has been imposed on the company for abusing its dominant position in the market for Boxed Micro Processors (BMPs) for desktops in India.

In a statement on Thursday, the CCI said the India-specific warranty policy was discriminatory, in comparison with Intel's warranty policies in China, Australia and the rest of the world.

The commission also found the policy to have limited the choice of consumers and parallel importers, and thereby causing an appreciable adverse effect on Indian consumers.

Considering the fact that the India-specific warranty policy was in place for eight years, the regulator imposed the penalty translating to 8% of the average relevant turnover of Intel.

"However, considering the mitigating factors including the discontinuation of the aforesaid policy w.e.f. 01.04.2024, the Commission reduced the amount and imposed a penalty of Rs 27.38 crore on Intel," the release said. Further, the CCI has directed Intel to widely publicise the withdrawal of the impugned India-specific warranty policy, and submit a compliance report.

'TN converted 74% of MoUs into projects in five years'

CHENNAI, DHNS: As many as 867 of the 1,179 MoUs signed after the DMK government assumed office in May 2021, have been realised into projects, achieving a whopping 73.53% conversion rate, Tamil Nadu Industries Minister TRB Raaja said on Thursday.

Raaja, making a presentation on the investments that Tamil Nadu attracted from May 2021 to February 2026 at the first-ever Conversion Conclave, said Chief Minister MK Stalin has been clear from the beginning that the focus should also be on the quality and location of jobs, not on raw investment numbers alone.

The conclave, attended by industrialists and diplomats based out of Chennai, comes just two months before the state goes to polls, with the DMK set to make Tamil Nadu's growth and investments it attracted in the last five years, as one of its key poll issues.

Of the 1,179 MoUs signed between May 2021 and February 2025, 867 have been converted into actual investments with projects in advanced stage – of this, 35.11% are already operational.

"The conversion rate is 73.53%. The conversion of MoUs signed during the CM's foreign visits to actual projects is 69.56%, with 26.08% of them already operational," Raaja said.

Biocon Q3 net surges over 5-fold to Rs 144 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Biocon on Thursday reported over five-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 144 crore for the third quarter ended December 2025, driven by gains in generics and biosimilar business verticals. The firm posted a net profit of Rs 25 crore for the same quarter of the last fiscal.

The revenue increased to Rs 4,173 crore for the period under review, against Rs 3,821 crore in the year-ago period, the company stated.

The company said its board has now granted in-principle approval to acquire the remaining 2% of Biocon Biologics Ltd's (BBL) paid-up equity share capital on a fully-diluted basis from employees of the group.

Agnikul, NeevCloud to launch space-based AI data centres

NEW DELHI, PTI: Space-tech firm Agnikul Cosmos on Thursday announced plans to launch AI data centres in orbit in collaboration with NeevCloud, a deep-tech cloud-computing platform, hosted on the extendable upper-stage of its home-built rockets.

Agnikul, which is developing 3D-printed rockets to launch small satellites, inked its first commercial agreement to launch an orbit-based AI data centre module developed by NeevCloud, an AI SuperCloud platform, into space.

"NeevCloud will deploy its space-based AI data centre and run real-time AI inference applications on this patented platform designed and developed by Agnikul," a statement from Agnikul said.

The first pilot is scheduled for launch before the end of this year and after successful validation, NeevCloud will scale the network of more than 600 Orbital edge data centres over the next three years.

Infosys, ExxonMobil partner to advance immersion cooling

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys on Thursday announced the expansion of its collaboration with ExxonMobil to develop and deploy its industry-leading suite of ExxonMobil Data Centre Immersion Fluids, which enhances energy efficiency and maximises the use of available power.

By leveraging ExxonMobil Data Center Immersion Fluids, Infosys Topaz, an AI-first set of services, solutions, and platforms using generative AI technologies, and Infosys Cobalt, a set of services, solutions, and platforms for enterprises to accelerate their cloud journey, the collaboration will enable the development and deployment of high-efficiency cooling systems that can meet the growing demands of AI and High-Performance Computing (HPC) workloads, the company said.

Infosys Topaz will enable realtime optimisation of cooling operations, ensuring smarter energy use. The IT services firm said Infosys Cobalt will provide a secure, scalable foundation for the deployment of these solutions across cloud and data centre environments.

In addition, Infosys will focus on scalable solutions for hyperscalers, global enterprises, and public sector organisations across industries like financial services, telecom, manufacturing, energy, and government.

FULL IP RIGHTS

Rolls-Royce offers India co-development of next-gen jet engine

NEW DELHI, PTI

A day after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilgic on Thursday unveiled a strategic roadmap to scale up the company's Indian operations across defence, energy and civil aviation domains, including plans to co-develop an aero-engine for India's next-generation combat jets with full intellectual property transfer.

Sashi Mukundan, Executive Vice-president of Rolls-Royce India, accompanied Erginbilgic in the meeting with the PM.

Under the initiative, Rolls-Royce is looking at more than doubling its workforce to around 10,000 in India, and a 10-fold increase in local supply-chain sourcing with a long-term goal to position the country as a global hub for its high-tech manufacturing. "As we grow our participation in programmes across India's defence, aviation and energy sectors, we will expand our ecosystem in India, as we have done successfully in other countries," Erginbilgic said.

Erginbilgic also held talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. "We welcome Rolls-Royce's enthusiasm towards scaling up its activities in India and partnering with our innovative and dynamic youth," Modi said on social media.

The aero-engine maker has been focusing on making India its third "home market" outside of the UK, in line with its strategy to unlock the full potential of opportunities in development of jet engine, naval propulsion, land systems and advanced engineering.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi (centre) during a meeting with Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilgic (left) and Rolls-Royce India Executive Vice-President Sashi Mukundan in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

"We are determined to partner India on its Atmanirbhar journey, by developing indigenous propulsion capabilities, providing sustained power to critical infrastructure and industry, and expanding local manufacturing for global supply chains", the Rolls-Royce CEO said.

Among the major defence projects, Rolls-Royce has been eyeing development of a next-generation aero engine in India as a priority to power the combat jets that New Delhi will produce under the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

Rolls-Royce with the UK government, has offered to co-develop a 120 kN class combat jet engine core that could be India's fastest route to an indigenous next-generation engine. The co-development will provide full technology transfer with IP ownership for India, supported by a dedicated design complex and manufacturing capabilities that will unlock significant job creation.

"We believe our unique portfolio of advanced capabilities can help us grow our presence and partnerships further, to power, protect and connect India for decades to come," Erginbilgic said.

"Rolls-Royce has so much to offer India. And India has so much to offer Rolls-Royce! Their announcement is set to soar investment and jobs in India and will further their impressive contribution to India's growth story," said British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron.

The announcement by Rolls-Royce builds on the India-UK strategic cooperation and the India-UK Vision 2035 roadmap for deeper bilateral industrial and defence collaboration.

More than 1,400 Rolls-Royce engines currently power various defence platforms such as the Jaguar combat aircraft and Hawk trainers of the Indian Air Force and Navy, the Arjun Main Battle Tanks of the Army. Also included are a variety of vessels and submarines of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard including the prestigious anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts and the P17 Alpha frigates.

Narredu-ridden Enrich wins Bangalore Turf Club Trophy

MUMBAI RESULTS

Enrich, from the stables of Mallesh Narredu and ridden by Yash Narredu, won the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy, the feature event of the races on Thursday.

1. Raza Ali Plate - 1400M: Alexandria (Siddharth) 1; Luminosity (Bharat Singh) 2; We Still Believe (Nikhil) 3; Golden Rule (Mustakim Alam) 4; Wb: Shd, 8-1/4, 2-3/4L. T: 1:24.78. TB: Altamash Ahmed. Fav: Alexandria.

2. MD Mehta Trophy - 1000M: Latios (Waahid Ali Khan) Yash Narredu 1; Lucky Diamond (Nazil) 2; Dreams Come True (A Prakash) 3; Satyavan (Mustakim Alam) 4; Wb: Snk, Shd, 1-1/4L. T:0:59.17. TB: Aman Altaf Hussain. Fav: Latios.

3. PD Bolton Trophy - 1400M: Thundering Phoenix (G Vivek) 1; Fourth Wing (Yash Narredu) 2; Earth (Akshay Kumar) 3; Bashir (Bharat Singh) 4; NR: Mr Brainwash. Wb: 3-3/4, 2-1/2, 1-1/4L. 1:23.02. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Fourth Wing.

4. MMT Pandole Plate - 1200M: Skandha (TS Jodha) 1; Commanchero (Mustakim Alam) 2; Mriga (G Vivek) 3; Crimson Pirate (Siddharth) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 1, 2-1/2L. T: 1:10.94. TB: Nazak Chenoy. Fav: Skandha.

5. W Buckley Plate - 2000M: Bright Button (SM Ruia) Neeraj Rawal 1; Viking (Akshay Kumar) 2; Maratha Admiral (NS Parmar) 3; Ma Cherie (G Vivek) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 1/2, 1/2L. T: 2:04.74. TB: Imtiaz Sait. Fav: Bright Button.

6. Bangalore Turf Club Trophy - 1400M: Enrich (Yash Narredu) 1; Cherubine (Neeraj Rawal) 2; Staria (TS Jodha) 3; Red Rose (Akshay Kumar) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 4L, Shd. T: 1:23.90. TB: Mallesh Narredu. Fav: Enrich.

7. Byram N.Jeejeebhoy Trophy - 1000M: Azure (Mustakim Alam) 1; Eastern Monarch (A Prakash) 2; Storm Cloud (Bharat Singh) 3; Foxy (Siddarth) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1-3/4L, Nk. T: 0:57.88. TB: Imtiaz Sait. Fav: Foxy.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 16w; 13, 12, 32p; Fc: Rs 59; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 62; Tri: Rs 478 & 372; Ex: Rs 12.291 & 4,214.

II race: Rs 14w; 13, 27p; Fc: Rs 94; Q: Rs 60; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 99 & 20; Ex: Rs 254 & 192.

III race: Rs 45w; 13, 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 83; Q: Rs 31; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 236 & 142; Ex: Rs 1,005 & 600.

IV race: Rs 14w; 10, 56, 18p; Fc: Rs 668; Q: Rs 379; Shp: Rs 143; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 946 & 169; Ex: Rs 3,443 & 1,475.

V race: Rs 22w; 10, 12, 16p; Fc: Rs 49; Q: Rs 30; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 148 & 75; Ex: Rs 510 & 311.

VI race: Rs 16w; 18, 10, 44p; Fc: Rs 38; Q: Rs 20; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 58; Tri: Rs 242 & 214; Ex: Rs 541 & 218.

VII race: Rs 62w; 10, 16, 24p; Fc: Rs 243; Q: Rs 169; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 1,956 & 718; Ex: Rs 2,430 & 810.

Jackpot: Rs 2,609 (256). **Runner-up:** Rs 171 (1671). **Treble:** Rs 93 (1029)

FOOTBALL

City close in on Arsenal

Guardiola's men down Fulham 3-0; Liverpool bounce back to win

MANCHESTER, AFP

Manchester City's Antoine Semenyo (right) prods home their opening goal during their victory over Fulham on Wednesday. AFP

Manchester City beat Fulham 3-0 to close in on Arsenal at the top of the Premier League on Wednesday, as Liverpool inflicted Sunderland's first home defeat of the season to ease the pressure on Arne Slot.

Fresh from what could be a turning point in the title race with a late fightback to beat Liverpool on Sunday, City cruised to victory with three goals in 15 first-half minutes to cut the gap at the top of the table to three points.

Antoine Semenyo struck for the fifth time since joining from Bournemouth last month before he set up Nico O'Reilly to chip in a second.

Erling Haaland then netted his first Premier League goal from open play for nearly two months before being handed a second-half rest by Pep Guardiola.

Arsenal can stretch their advantage back to six points when they visit Brentford on Thursday, but the Gunners are suddenly under pressure in their quest for a first title in 22 years.

Liverpool remain in sixth but did their chances of Champions League football next season a power of good with an impressive 1-0 win at the Stadium of Light.

Virgil van Dijk's header from a Mohamed Salah corner early in the second half was enough to earn just the English champions' second league win of 2026.

Third-placed Aston Villa moved closer to sealing their place in next season's Champions League thanks to a late own goal from Jack Hinshelwood to beat Brighton 1-0.

Results: Aston Villa: 1 (Hinshelwood 86 og) bt Brighton: 0; Crystal Palace: 2 (Strand Larsen 17th, 33rd) lt to Burnley: 3 (Mejbri 40th, Anthony 44th, Lerma 45+3 og); Manchester City: 3 (Semenyo 24th, O'Reilly 30th, Haaland 39th) bt Fulham: 0; Nottingham Forest: 0 drew with Wolves: 0; Sunderland: 0 lt to Liverpool: 1 (Van Dijk 61st).

La Real take lead

Benat Turrientes fired Real Sociedad into a 1-0 Copa del Rey semifinal first leg lead at Basque rivals Athletic Bilbao in Spain on Wednesday.

Result: First leg: Athletic Bilbao: 0 lt to Real Sociedad: 1 (Turrientes 62nd).

Batter Mohith shines in Titan Company Ltd SC win

LOCAL CRICKET

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohith BA slammed 93 in Titan Company Ltd Sports Club's 33-run victory over Bosch Sports Club in the KSCA Group II - II Division league cum knockout tournament here.

Brief scores: Titan Company Ltd: 217/4 in 20 overs (Mohith BA 93, Surakshith BM 48; Sharath Srinivas 2-25) bt Bosch SC, Bangalore: 184/5 in 20 overs (Srikanth B N 65, Sriranganatha Rao M 47; Velmuruga M 2-25).

ADE SC: 138/6 in 20 overs (Shabahat Hussain 49, Pravesh KM 32; Aaron K Joseph 2-18) lt to Bhagirathi Group: 140/4 in 17.5 overs (Aaron K Joseph 54, Aadharsh SJ 34; Sonu Kumar Ram 2-10).

EPF Sports & Recreation Club: 141/8 in 20 overs (Nishanth Y 50, Kotikalapudi Venkata Rao 32; Y James Prasanna Kumar 4-12) lt to BDSA, South Western Railway, Bangalore: 142/5 in 18.3 overs (Pralayakaveri Vijaya Kumar 41, Alim Yates 29 n.o., Varun K 28).

BHEL EDN SC: 154/9 in 20 overs (Praveen Pattar 65; Sunny Kanchi 3-34, Anand Kumar 2-34) tied with LRDE SC: 154/8 in 20 overs (Vishwa H 49, Sunny Kanchi 43; Mahesh Acharya 2-44, Sunil BB 2-34). Super Over: LRDE: 10/2 in 0.5 over lt to BHEL EDN: 15/0 in 0.4 over.

Railway Institute, Krishnarajapuram: 149/6 in 20 overs (Manjunath 58, Likith Gowda M 26; Shreedhar MA 3-15) bt Karnataka Government Secretariat Club: 131/7 in 20 overs (Abhishek J 68; Sitaram Meena 2-16, Naveen Krishna P 2-17).

Bangalore Dairy SC: 101 all out in 17.4 overs (Dinesh S 28; Ashish Kumar 4-16, Arnav Kush 3-5, Hareesh UK 2-15) lt to Indian Air Force, Jalahalli: 107/3 in 14.4 overs (Ajay Chaudhary 42 n.o.; Kumar Raj D 2-13).

BEMRC Cricket: 176/5 in 20 overs (Srinivas MK 74, Sai Susheel Reddy 58; Chandrashekhara MP 2-32, Ramdsh M 2-47) bt BHEL EPD CSBD: 122/7 in 20 overs (M Basavaraja 60; Himesh R 3-12).

Triton SC, Mysore: 182/6 in 20 overs (Yashwanth Patel 70, Srithan V 63; Thejas L 2-36) bt Continental Automotive CC: 174/6 in 20 overs (Karthik J 55, Krishnamurthy T 36; Ishaan S 3-29, Naveen Kumar M 2-18).

ITC SC: 102 all out in 17.3 overs (Hemanth TR 44; Mahaboobsab A Chowdari 3-9, Manjunath MR 3-11, K Raghavendra 2-22) lt to NAL Staff Club: 104/4 in 16.4 overs (Umesh KR 50, N Balaji 26; Chandrashekar R 2-12, Nishanth Gopal 2-19).

ABB CC: 81/9 in 20 overs (Roshan Raju 3-4, Girisha J 2-21) lt to BEML(2) SC, Mysore: 84/1 in 6.2 overs (Swayam Raje Urs V 44, Aadesh D Urs 26 n.o.).

BEL SC: 213/7 in 20 overs (Nikhilesh Kumar Thakur 62, Barath C 40, Amar Kumar S 35, Gautham R Reddy 28; Rajesh SB 2-31) bt Advocate Association CC: 157/5 in 20 overs (Kaushik L 78 n.o., R Jagadish 27; Barath C 2-16, Gautham R Reddy 2-23).

Secretariat Cricket Club: 132 all out in 18.3 overs (Karan 57; Pavan Shirdi S 4-13, Kiran G 2-23, Raghu V 2-24) lt to Bosch SC, Naganathapura: 133/5 in 17.4 overs (Nischal Dayanand 57, Pankaj K Gowda 28; Karan 2-21).

SWR Rail Club, Bangalore: 77 all out in 18.5 overs (M Shankar 3-11, Raghuram KM 2-13) lt to BBMP: 80/2 in 8.4 overs (Rajesh N 31, Nagarjun TM 26 n.o.).

GTRE SC: 98 all out in 19.3 overs (Sharad Chandrabhan Yadav 35; Rohan Ravi 3-8, Rishab Navarathan J 2-8, Gudisela Chandra Sekhar 2-15) lt to LIC SC: 101/5 in 17 overs (Karan U 32).

BEML SC, KGF: 74 all out in 15.5 overs (Naman GD 25; G Murugan 3-5, Yashwantha 2-9, Rakshith K 2-9, Aruna M 2-9) lt to Bangalore Telephone CC: 75/1 in 9.1 overs (Aleem 38 n.o.).

SWR Central Workshop Ashokpuram, Mysore: 180/6 in 20 overs (Srinidhi V 48, Pralanjal N Nagesha 33; Gagan D 2-47, Shreyank Sagar 2-31) bt VISL CC, Bhadravathi: 134 all out in 19.2 overs (Srinivas C Tattehalli 49, Tanmay M 25; Sibtain Ali 4-29, Mohith N 2-13, Shashank HC 2-25).

Karnataka State Police: 210/4 in 20 overs (Madhusudan 63, Somashekara Murthy KS 48 n.o., Rakesh NK 40, Dadapeer B 32; Raunak 3-40) bt Deccan Herald & Prajavani Sports Club: 109/7 in 20 overs (Syed Moinuddin Nasheed 27 n.o.; Siddarameshwara HM 2-7, Ashitharya 2-18).

Karnataka concede first innings lead to Andhra

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka failed to take a first-innings lead for the first time in the U-14 Boys' South Zone Tournament as they suffered a batting collapse on Day 2 against Andhra in their last league stage match in Vizianagaram on Thursday.

Resuming at a strong 130/1 in response to Andhra's 230 the other day, Karnataka fell short by mere two runs at 228 all out in 55.4 overs as Pavandeep Bharadakane's dismissal after a run-a-ball 92 cost dearly. Rakshan Sai did the major chunk of damage with a spell of 6/45.

Andhra then batted for the rest of the day, reaching 110/2 in 26 overs in their second innings with PVSR Varma contributing a 70-ball 50 not out.

Brief scores: Andhra: 230 all out & 110/2 in 26 overs (Raj 44, PVSR Varma 50 n.o.) drew with Karnataka: (O/n: 130/1): 228 all out in 55.4 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 92, Athreya Bhat 29; Rakshan Sai 6-45, Shaik Abdul Saad Unais 2-45).

Bhujang for Panipat Plate

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ajay Sharma-trained Bhujang, to be ridden by SG Prasad, and Ashwa Tokyo to be piloted by Vishal from the stables of S Nawab are likely to dominate the finish in the small field of four runners in the fray for the Panipat Plate, the feature event of the races to be run over a distance of five furlongs on Friday. The first race starts at 2:15 pm.

1. Royal Hooves Plate - 1400M: Senor 1, Shahzada 2, Jaat Hero 3.

2. Panipat Plate - 1000M: Bhujang 1, Ashwa Tokyo 2.

3. Hangning Garden Plate - 1200M: Telekinesis 1, Kaftan 2, Daring Diva 3.

4. Golden Peacock Plate - 1200M: Golden Sun 1, Ashwa Kohima 2, Treasure 3.

5. Kurukshetra Plate - 1000M: Chieftain 1, Winning Legacy 2, Bigg Tymer 3. 6. Hisar Plate - 1200M: Divine Right 1, Eastern Crown 2, Emperor Ashoka 3.

Day's best: Telekinesis. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Treble:** 4, 5, 6.

Karnataka gallop past Odisha

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shubha Satheesh and Niki Prasad continued their fine form as Karnataka defeated Odisha by 92 runs to remain top of Elite Group A in the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy in Rajkot on Thursday.

Shubha's 101-ball 90 and Niki's 79 took Karnataka to 326/7 in 50 overs with Soumya Verma (58) and Shishira Gowda (49) providing further support at the Sansora Cricket Ground A.

In response, Odisha could only manage a 234/9 in 50 overs with Madhuri Meheta's 102-ball 78 and Sarita Meher's 56 off 66 not proving enough. Rajeshwari Gayakwad (3/29) and BG Tejashwini (2/30) troubled the Odisha batters with wickets at regular intervals.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 326/7 in 50 overs (Shubha Satheesh 90, Shishira A Gowda 49, Niki Prasad 79, Soumya Verma 58; Jyoti K Prasad 3-64) bt Odisha: 234/9 in 50 overs (Madhuri Meheta 78, Tanmayee Behera 33, Sarita Meher 56; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3-29, BG Tejashwini 2-30). **Karnataka's next match:** Assam (Feb 14).

Suman stars for National SC

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Suman scored 27 points as National SC Mysuru beat Chinnadanadu BC 78-62 in the Karnataka Rural Basketball League here.

Results: Super League: National SC Mysuru: 78 (Suman 27, Ronak 22) bt Chinnadanadu BC: Kolar: 62 (Hemanth 20, Bharath 14); Mangalore BC Mangalore: 58 (Prastik 18, Deekshith 12) bt Sai Dharwad: 34 (Sanket 14, Varun 9); Protec Association Mysuru: 76 (Ranjith 14, Ranen 13, Kishan 13) bt Chinnadanadu BC Kolar: 59 (Yashwanth 27, Tarun 9); Marians BC Chikkamagaluru: 67 (Rishabh 25, Om Shetty 17) bt Sai Dharwad 43 (Sanket 13, Varun 13, Sanju 6).

Indian teams handed tough draw

NEW DELHI, PTI

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP

- **Men: Group D:** India, Uzbekistan, Australia and North Korea.
- **Women: Group B:** India, Japan, Australia and Lebanon.

Indian teams were handed tough draw in the U-17 Asian Cup competitions as on Thursday the women's team was drawn alongside four-time champions Japan, Australia and Lebanon in a tough Group B at the AFC Under-17 Women's Asian Cup in China.

In the men's AFC U17 Asian Cup, India were drawn with Uzbekistan, Australia and North Korea in Group D in the final draw held at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur. The tournament will take place from May 5 to 22 in Saudi Arabia.

India qualified for the AFC U17 Asian Cup for the 10th time in history after finishing ahead of Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and Chinese Taipei in the qualifiers. The Blue Colts will begin their campaign against Australia, followed by Uzbekistan and Korea.

Uzbekistan are the defending champions, qualifying automatically for the tournament.

The tournament will take place from May 1-17 in the city of Suzhou.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)
No. SE(E)/Tr.(Op)C-N/AEE(C)/F-341/2025-26/2666 Date: 10.02.2026
KPTCL Transmission(Operations) North- Circle invites tenders for the following works
1). Construction of Store Room at 66/11kV sub-station, Mathikere(Extension) **(Reserved for SC).** Estimate Cost: **Rs. 15,00,000/-.**
2). Construction of store room at 220/66kV "A" Station. (Extension). Estimate Cost: **Rs. 15,00,000/-.**
3). Providing storm water drain for draining out rain water collecting in the cable ducts and control cable ducts at 220kV station SRS Peenya. Estimate Cost: **Rs. 20,00,000/-.**
4). Construction of Water sump at 66/11kV sub-station, Srigandhada Kaval. Estimate Cost: **Rs. 8,00,000/-.**
5). Construction Water sump at 66/11kV Vijayanagar MUSS **(Reserved for CAT-II A).** Estimate Cost: **Rs. 8,00,000/-.**
6). Construction of sump tank along with necessary water supply pipe line arrangement and electrification work at 220kV station colony SRS Peenya. Estimate Cost: **Rs. 20,00,000/-.**
Note: The detailed information regarding the subject enquiries in the KPP Portal can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13.02.2026** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elec.), Transmission(Operation) Circle-North, KPTCL, U.A.S. Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 024.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/TKR/Tr(O)Z/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/12326-28 Date: 11.02.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL MODE ONLY)
KPTCL invites Bids for the following works.
1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/**Bid Enq-0096.** for Replacement of 2x12.5, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11KV Sub-station **Guttur**, Harihara Taluk, Guttur Operation Division, KPTCL, Davanagere District including supply of equipments/materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works), under **Partial turnkey basis** on Percentage Tender Basis' (Excluding the supply of Major materials such as Power Transformer & NIFS which will be supplied by KPTCL. Testing & commissioning done by KPTCL RT Staff).
No: CEE/TKR/Tr(O)Z/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/12351-53 Date: 11.02.2026
2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/**Bid Enq-0100.** for Replacement of 2x12.5, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11KV Sub-station **Garaga,** Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga Operation Division, KPTCL, Chitradurga District including supply of equipments/materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works) under **Partial turnkey basis** on Percentage Tender Basis' (Excluding the supply of Major materials such as Power Transformer & NIFS, which will be supplied by KPTCL. Testing & commissioning, done by KPTCL RT Staff).
The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP Portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 17.02.2026. (for Sl No.1) and 18.02.2026 (for Sl No.2).** and other details can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during Office hours.
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec)., Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana," 1st Floor, 66/11kV Tumakuru S/s Premises, Tumakuru – 572103

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.
Dated:10.02.2026 CALL-2/CALL3 IFT No.: 44/2025-26.
SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS KW- 1/2&3
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation &Ground water Development Division, Shivamoggainvites tenders in Standard Bid DocumentKW-1/2 and KW-3 throughkpp-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the works of coming under M.I sub-divisions TARIKERE/ SHIKARIPURA/SHIMOGA amounting from Rs.3.58 lakhs to Rs. 80.64 lakhs.. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 10.02.2026 to 17.02.2026 upto 17:00hrs. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e- procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.
Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.
DIPR/smg/KSMCA/25-26/82/02/1823

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Platform)
BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Procurement of Chain Saw. **Description: Procurement of Chain Saw. Enquiry No.** BESCOM/2025-26/IND0204.
Bid Documents available from: **12.02.2026 onwards.** Last date for submission of Bids: **27.02.2026, 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **02.03.2026, 11:00 Hrs.**
The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal web-site **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers **(+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001)** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**
Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Commissioner, Rehabilitation & Resettlement, Land Acquisition, Upper Krishna Project, Navanagar Bagalkote.
Phone: 08354-200462 Email : gmlaqukp1@gmail.com
Com/Est/SOA/18-19/CWD-55A/23-24 Date: 12-02-2026.
Applications are invited from retired Judges for Special Officer, Legal Cell, UKP, Bagalkote.
Applications are invited from retired District Judges or retired Senior Civil Judges, or advocates having 05 years of experience in District Court handling Land Acquisition cases, below the age of 65 years, for the post of Special Officer, Legal Cell, and Ex-officio Deputy Secretary to the Government Law Department, Upper Krishna Project, Bagalkote, to work on a contract basis. The notification is published in Deccan Herald News paper on 28-01-2026. Applications should reach to the undersigned before 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the news paper. Last date for submission of applications is extended up to 27-02-2026.
Interest retired District Judges or retired Senior Civil Judges are requested to apply directly to the office of the Commissioner, Rehabilitation & Resettlement, Land Acquisition, Upper Krishna Project, Navanagar Bagalkote/ E-mail Id: gmlaqukp1@gmail.com along with their self-details and attested documents. For more information you can contact The Deputy General Mananger, Mobile No. 8971219588.
Sd/-General Manager, Rehabilitation & Resettlement, Land Acquisition, UKP, Navanagar Bagalkote
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-582/KSMCA/2025-26

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
P.B. No. 8005, C.V. Raman Avenue, Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru 560080
SHORT TENDER NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF OLD BOOKS, PAPER & SCRAP ITEMS
The Academy invites sealed tender from scrap dealers for lifting of old waste, book, paper & scrap materials on "As is Where is basis" at its premises, visit Website **www.ias.ac.in** for tender details.
Executive Secretary

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited No.148, Embassy Square, Ground Floor, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001, CIN No: U41000KA2016SGC097260
Ph: 080-22256688/22289966 Fax: 080-22264477
Email: techvjnl@gmail.com, Website: www.vjnl.in
Office of the Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, Upper Bhadra Project Division No.9, Sira, Tumkur District -572137
Ph: 08135-200763 Email-ld-ubpee.9@gmail.com
No. VJNL/UBP/EE/Div No-9/Sira/Tender Notification-07/2025-26/1150 Date: 10-02-2026
KW-4 Short-Term Tender Notification
On behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, Bengaluru, the under signed invites Tender on percentage basis for the Indent No. 473 & 476 in Two cover system through e-procurement portal for an amount of **338.93 & 419.15 Lakhs**. Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11.02.2026 to 25.02.2026** and Tender can be submitted till 2**5.02.2026 upto 5.00 pm.** Information of E.M.D, amount fixed for the work/class of contractor/ Tender Rules/ Tender processing fee etc, can be obtained through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and information can also be obtained during the office hours of the under signed. The Technical bid will be opened on **26.02.2026 after 5.30 pm** in the office of The Executive Engineer, VJNL, Upper Bhadra Project Division No.9, Sira. Tender receiving officer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
VJNL, UBP, Division No.9, Sira, Tumkur District.
DIPR/TUM/RO-260/25-26/Oysters

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
Tel: 080-22341230/35, **E-mail :** bmicapa@gmail.com
No: BMICAPA/CLU-01/13/2023-24/2615 Date : 12.02.2026
PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)
Sri M.Rangaswamy S/o Late Mariyappa has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Industrial (Green category Industrial activities)" purpose pertaining to Sy.No:47/1 extent of 05Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:47/2 extent of 03Acre-01Guntas, Sy.No:53/1A4 extent of 0Acre-04¾ Guntas, Sy.No:53/1A5 extent of 0Acre-07¼ Guntas and Sy.No:53/1B (part) extent of 0Acre-22½ Guntas totally measuring 08 Acre-39½ Guntas of Madanayakanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;
1) By developing the Industrial Projects in the above said land, the Publics will get Job opportunities.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be job opportunities for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the industry in the above said land.
4) By the development of Industry in the above land, the Government will get the revenue in the form of various taxes.
Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5625/NR/2025-26 **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.**

SDS TRC AND RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHEST DISEASES
(An Autonomous Institute, Government of Karnataka)
(Reg. No. SOR/BLU/DR/671/09-10 Dtd: 23.09.2009)
(Superspeciality Referral Hospital & Post Graduate Institute)
Someshwaranagara 1st Main Road, Dharmaram College Post, (Near NIMHANS), Bangalore - 560 029. Ph: 080-26088500/501
E-mail : sdstbrgicd@gmail.com / director.rgicd@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಸ್/ತ.ವೈ.ನೇ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ–01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.02.2026
Contractual basis recruitment notification
Applications are invited for recruitment on contract basis in CTVS Department and other dept of SDS TRC & RGICD, Bangalore, through Walk-in-Interview. For more information, please login to the institute official website **www.rgicd.karnataka.gov.in** (Last date for submission of application: **21-02-2026 at 4.00 PM)**
Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/5613/Zen/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites tender from eligible Contractors for the following works
Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
North East	BWSSB/EE (N-E)/TO/PB /4430/2025-26 Dated: 10.02.2026	Rs. 13,08,641/- / Rs.32,800/-	20.02.2026 upto 4:00 pm	21.02.2026 after 3:00 pm
	BWSSB/EE (N-E)/TO/PB /4429/2025-26 Dated: 10.02.2026	Rs. 22,04,758/- / Rs.50,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-East)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the KPP portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/5622/CCL/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF COMMUNICATION ACCOUNTS- KARNATAKA CIRCLE
https ://dot.gov.in/cca/Karnataka
ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಟೆಲಿಕಾಂ/ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಎನ್‌ಎಲ್ ಪಿಂಚಣಿದಾರರ– ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ
ಟೆಲಿಕಾಂ/ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಎನ್‌ಎಲ್ ಪಿಂಚಣಿದಾರರಿಗೆ 43ನೇ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಅದಾಲತ್ ಅನ್ನು 2026ರ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೃತ್ತದ ಸಂವಹನ ಖಾತೆಗಳ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಕರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಲಿಕಾಂ ಇಲಾಖೆ/ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಎನ್‌ಎಲ್ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೃತ್ತದಿಂದ ನಿವೃತ್ತರಾದ ಪಿಂಚಣಿದಾರರು/ಕುಟುಂಬ ಪಿಂಚಣಿದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಕುಂದುಕೊರತೆಗಳನ್ನು **25.02.2026** ರಂದು ಅಥವಾ ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಮೊದಲು ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ (ಅಥವಾ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ **jtcca1.ka.dot@gov.in**) ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪಿಪಿಒ ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಕಾನೂನು / ಉತ್ತರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನೀತಿ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಅದಾಲತ್ ನ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳವನ್ನು ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
Press Note
Kind Attention -Telecom/BSNL Pensioners
FORTY THIRD (43 rd) PENSION ADALAT for Telecom/BSNL Pensioners is proposed to be held during the month of MARCH -2026 at O/o Controller of Communications Accounts, Karnataka Circle.
Pensioners / Family Pensioners who retired from the Department of Telecom /BSNL Karnataka Circle, having grievances regarding their pension matters may submit their representations on or before **25.02.2026** by post (E-mail **jtcca1.ka.dot@gov.in)** with full PPO Details. Cases involving legal/succession issues and policy matters will not be entertained.
Date, Time and Venue of the Adalat will be intimated directly to each applicant in due course.
Sd/- Jt. Controller of Communications Accounts
O/o CCA, Karnataka Circle, Bengaluru-560001

Bas de Leede

Netherlands wary of USA threat

CHENNAI, PTI: Netherlands will look to blend batting explosiveness and bowling discipline for a victory against the dangerous United States of America, essential to keep their T20 World Cup Super Eights hopes alive during a Group A match here on Friday.

Having lost their tournament-opener against Pakistan narrowly, the Dutch bounced back in commanding fashion against Namibia in their previous outing.

Chasing 157, they sealed a seven-wicket win with two overs to spare to stay in contention for a berth in the next stage.

LIVE 7 PM

All-rounder Bas de Leede will be central to their campaign. He anchored the chase against Namibia with a 72 not out at a strike rate of 150 and also claimed two key wickets, including skipper Gerhard Erasmus, in the middle overs. The Dutch possess explosive options at the top, but concerns linger over their middle and lower-order line-up.

That frailty was exposed against Pakistan, as they slumped from a comfortable 123/4 after 15 overs to 147 all out in 19.5 overs, losing the last six wickets for just 24 runs. Max O'Dowd, known for his high back-lift and power-hitting, has endured quiet outings -- 5 and 7 against Pakistan and Namibia respectively -- and will be eager to rediscover his mojo.

Playing their seventh T20 World Cup, the Netherlands have grown into a formidable outfit and will back their bowling depth, particularly at the death, to test an American side which is still searching for its first win in this event.

We showed we can compete at top level: Manenti

MUMBAI, PTI: Calling it a dream come true, Italy's stand-in skipper Harry Manenti said competing at the top level had always been the team's goal after they secured their maiden T20 World Cup win.

Italy delivered a commanding performance, outplaying Nepal in all three departments to seal an emphatic 10-wicket victory, a result that marked a defining moment for cricket in the country.

"Yes, it's pretty extraordinary, really. It's something that a lot of people in Italy, a lot of people in this group have dreamt of for a long time," Manenti said at the post-match presentation.

"When we qualified, that was obviously a special moment, but our goal was always to compete at this level and compete in this top competition, and we showed that today.

"We didn't quite nail it the other day, but we backed it up today and showed the world what we've got," he added.

The Azzuri were without regular skipper Wayne Madsen, who continues to recover from a dislocated shoulder.

"Yeah, obviously, it hurt us losing our leader and our captain, Wayne, and I hope he's back really soon, but the boys regrouped really well. It was obviously a shock to the system in that fourth over (against Scotland) when it happened, and we probably didn't quite nail it from then on and (the game) got out of our hand.

"Every team's the same, and they have their own little element, but we've got brothers in our side, and I see it as we've got 15 of them."

INDIA GET A GOOD WORKOUT

Defending champs ease to comfortable 93-run win against Namibia

MADHU JAWALI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India stumbled to just 10 runs in the final two overs while losing five wickets, yet still managed to post 209/9 after being asked to bat first by Namibia in their T20 World Cup Group A clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday.

Namibia showed early signs of resistance with the bat, but once Varun Chakravarthy dipped into his bag of tricks, the visitors were left searching for answers. The mystery spinner's spell triggered a dramatic collapse.

Namibia were placed at an impressive 86/2 in nine overs, when Chakravarthy engineered a mini collapse, removing three batters in succession in two overs while conceding just seven runs. Namibia couldn't recover from these blows even as Axar Patel (2/20) and later Hardik Pandya (2/21), after a good outing with the bat, got into the act. The innings folded up for 116 in 18.2 overs, handing India a 93-run win for their second in as many matches.

India's innings, on what looked like a slightly sticky but largely good batting surface, unfolded in a curious fashion. While a few batters appeared completely at ease, others struggled for fluency, and the hosts eventually settled for a total well below what they had threatened earlier.

With Hardik in destructive mood (52 off 28 balls, 4x4, 4x6) and Shivam Dube gradually finding his rhythm, India looked set to push past 230 or even 240 after reaching 199/4 at the end of the 18th over. Instead, a pair of run-outs and mistimed strokes allowed Namibia to pull things back.

Although India lost the toss, they were more than happy to bat first. Following an unexpected stutter against the USA in their opener, the top order needed time in the middle, and they took full advantage of Namibia's largesse.

Sanju Samson, drafted in for the indisposed Abhishek Sharma, began under immense pressure but responded with intent. After a couple of anxious moments in the first over, he finished it with a towering straight six. He followed it up with two more sixes and a four in the next over before holing out in the deep, his flick failing to generate the necessary distance.

At the other end, Ishan Kishan continued his blistering form, racing to a 20-ball fifty on his way to 61 off 24 deliveries, including six fours and five sixes. As he motored along, India brought up their hundred in just 6.5 overs, the fastest team hundred in men's T20 World Cup history.

New-ball bowlers Ruben Trumpelmann (0/38 in 4 overs) and Ben Shikongo (1/41 in 3 overs) bore the brunt of Kishan's assault. He eventually fell after contributing 59 from 20 balls in a whirlwind stand of 79 off 31 deliveries.

While Kishan looked in sublime touch, Tilak Varma appeared a touch rusty in just his second match since returning from injury, making 25 off 21 balls. Nevertheless, it was valuable time in the middle for the left-hander ahead of tougher challenges.

Hardik Pandya

Namibia found a foothold through captain Gerhard Erasmus (4/20) and Bernard Scholtz (1/41). The spin duo removed Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak in quick succession and squeezed India, conceding only 20 runs across 28 balls.

Erasmus was particularly impressive, bowling his off-spin from behind the crease as the Indian batters struggled to time his ball well. Hardik then seized control to inject momentum, while Dube rotated the strike smartly.

Against the run of play, India's innings took a dramatic turn once Hardik fell attempting another big hit. Namibia may have prevented India from piling a bigger total, but a 200-plus target was always going to be a tall order for the Africans given India's attack in these conditions -- dew notwithstanding.

SCORE BOARD

INDIA

Kishan c Shikongo b Erasmus (24b, 6x4, 5x6)	61
Samson c Steenkempo b Shikongo (7b, 1x4, 3x6)	22
Tilak c Smit b Erasmus (21b, 3x4)	25
Suryakumar st Green b Scholtz (13b, 1x6))	12
Hardik c Leicher b Erasmus (28b, 4x4, 4x4)	52
Dube (run out) (16b, 1x4, 1x6)	23
Rinku c Erasmus b Smit (6b)	1
Axar b Erasmus (1b)	0
Chakravarthy (not out) (1b)	1
Arshdeep (run out) (2b)	2
Extras (LB-1, W-9)	**10**
Total (for 9 wkts, 20 overs)	**209**

Fall of wickets: 1-25 (Samson), 2-104 (Kishan), 3-120 (Surya), 4-124 (Tilak), 5-205 (Hardik), 6-205 (Dube), 7-206 (Axar), 8-206 (Rinku), 9-209 (Arshdeep).

Bowling: Trumpelmann 4-0-38-0, Shikongo 3-0-41-1, Smit 4-0-50-1, Heingo 1-0-18-0, Erasmus 4-0-20-4, Scholtz 4-0-41-1.

NAMIBIA

Steenkamp b Chakravarthy (20b, 3x4, 1x6)	29
Frylinck c Dube b Arshdeep (15b, 3x4, 1x6)	22
Loftie-Eaton c Axar b Chakravarthy (13b, 1x4)	13
Erasmus c Dube b Axar (11b, 2x6)	18
Smit b Chakravarthy (2b)	0
Green (hit wicket) Dube (19b)	11
Kruger c Bumrah b Axar (10b, 1x4)	5
Trumplemann b Bumrah (16b)	6
Scholtz c Axar b Hardik (4b, 1x4)	4
Shikongo lbw Hardik (1b)	0
Heingo (not out) (2b)	0
Extras (B-1, NB-3, W-4)	8
Total (all out, 18.2 overs)	**116**

Fall of wickets: 1-33 (Frylinck), 2-67 (Steenkamp), 3-86 (Lofie-Eaton), 4-86 (Smit), 5-88 (Erasmus), 6-94 (Kruger), 7-111 (Trumpelmann), 8-116 (Scholtz), 9-116 (Shikongo).

Bowling: Hardik 4-0-21-2, Arshdeep 3-0-36-1, Dube 2.2-0-11-1, Bumrah 4-0-20-1, Chakravarthy 2-0-7-3, Axar 3-1-20-2.

Result: India won by 93 runs; **PoM:** Hardik Pandya; **India's next match:** vs Pakistan (Feb 15, Colombo).

Aminul Islam

BCB chief to be in Colombo for Indo-Pak clash

DHAKA, PTI : Bangladesh Cricket Board chief Aminul Islam says he will be in Colombo to watch the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup clash on Sunday where he expects to break ice with the BCCI after tense exchanges over the past few weeks.

Speaking to Bangladesh newspaper 'Pratham Alo', Islam said the invitation for the high-profile game has come from the ICC.

"The ICC has taken a decision. The major stakeholders of the ICC are these five Asian countries and for the India-Pakistan World Cup match on the 15th, they want representatives of all five Asian countries to be present at the ground together, watch the match together and talk to one another," Islam said.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan form the Asian block in the world body.

Asked if the meet could be an opportunity to end tensions with the BCCI, Islam said, "You can consider it as something like that."

The BCCI-BCB strife started after the Indian Board ordered the release of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from the IPL contract with Kolkata Knight Riders for unspecified "developments all around."

Namibia's Vuuren credits Jay Shah for Windhoek stadium

NEW DELHI, PTI: Namibia will be hosting the men's ODI World Cup games in 2027 and a lot of credit for constructing a brand new stadium goes to ICC chairman Jay Shah, Cricket Namibia president Rudie van Vuuren said on Thursday.

Van Vuuren was all praise for Shah for his efforts in empowering associate nations and improving their cricket infrastructure.

"The ICC has adopted a policy of empowering associate members. Jay Shah has really brought significant change there. He was in Windhoek visiting our new stadium, and how the ICC has helped us develop that facility," Van Vuuren said.

In fact, with the 2027 World Cup in mind, the ICC has also developed high-performance facilities which will help Namibia grow as a cricketing nation.

Nabi fined for disobeying umpire's decision

AHMEDABAD, PTI: Veteran Afghan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi has been fined 15 per cent of his match fees for disobeying the umpire's decision during his team's loss to South Africa.

The incident occurred at the start of the 14th over of Afghanistan's innings, when Nabi engaged in a prolonged argument with the umpires over bowler Lungi Ngidi's wrist-band.

"Nabi was found to have breached Article 2.4 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "Disobeying an Umpire's instruction during an International Match," an ICC statement read.

In addition to the fine, Nabi has also been handed a demerit point, and it was his first offence in a 24-month period.

"Nabi admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by David Gilbert of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing," the statement added.

Italians make history at Wankhede

World Cup debutants hammer Nepal for first win at showpiece event

MUMBAI, PTI

Italy trounced Nepal by 10 wickets to record a historic first-ever win in the men's T20 World Cup, producing a clinical show in only the second match of their maiden appearance in the competition here on Thursday.

After their spinners ruled the roost to bowl Nepal out for a paltry 123, brothers Anthony Mosca (62 not out) and Justin Mosca (60 not out) put on a ruthless unbeaten opening stand to crush the Rhinos, who failed to live up to the expectations.

Chasing 124, Italy knocked off the runs with 7.2 overs to spare.

Younger of the two, Justin who has featured in various T20 tournaments including the Indian Premier League, was introduced into the attack, Italian openers had knocked 58 runs off from the modest target.

Anthony smacked one over long-on in the first over to set the tone while Justin tore into Karan KC in the third, hammering two fours and a six, as Italy made a fiery start.

The Mosca brothers hammered a six each off Lalit Rajbanshi in the fourth over as Italy raised their half-century in no time.

The Italians cruised at almost 10 runs an over with Nepal failing to produce any opportunity whatsoever, much to the disappointment of their fans who once again had filled up the Wankhede Stadium's stands in large numbers.

Italy's Anthony Mosca celebrates the momentous maiden World Cup win over Nepal at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday. AFP

smashed three sixes and five fours to make 60 not out off 44 balls, while Anthony too cashed in on a deflated Nepal bowlers, clobbering six sixes and three fours to score 62 not out off only 32 balls.

It was only the second match in T20 World Cup history for Italy, who had lost the tournament opener to Scotland by a massive 73 runs in Kolkata.

Nepal, who were touted favourites for this clash after their enormous effort against England at the same venue, cut a sorry figure.

None of their batters could find a way to counter Italy's accurate spin bowling and fielding, while they inexplicably held their best spinner Sandeep Lamichhane back for most of the Powerplay.

By the time Lamichhane,

Brief scores: Nepal: 123 all out in 19.3 overs (Aarif Sheikh 27; Ben Manenti 2-9, Crishan Kalugamage 3-18) lt to Italy: 124 for no loss in 12.4 overs (Justin Mosca 60 n.o., Anthony Mosca 62 n.o.).

Result: Italy won by 10 wkts.

PoM: Crishan Kalugamage.

Recovering Abhishek may miss Pakistan game too

MADHU JAWALI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In an encouraging sign, Abhishek Sharma accompanied the team to the ground for the first time in three days, having made some recovery following a stomach infection for which he had to be admitted to hospital on Monday and was discharged only on Wednesday.

The opener, however, didn't participate in the team warm-up prior to the commencement of their match against Namibia, and looked gingerly as he walked around. He did join the team members when the National anthem was played, but appeared to have been drained of energy due to illness.

BCCI didn't give a timeline as to when the southpaw would be ready to be picked.

"Abhishek Sharma is still recovering from his illness and was unavailable for selection. The BCCI medical team is closely monitoring his progress," the BCCI said in a statement, just before the match commenced.

During the toss, skipper Suryakumar Yadav told commentator Ravi Shastri that the 25-year-old wasn't yet fully fit. "He might take one or two games' (rest to make full recovery)," he added.

At the moment, his availability for the Pakistan game in Colombo on Friday appears highly unlikely, but India would be desperately hoping for him to get fit soon.

His replacement Sanju Samson did show promise with a 7-ball 22, which included three mighty sixes, but couldn't sustain the momentum he had gathered.

Aussies fret over skipper Marsh's fitness

COLOMBO, PTI: Skipper Mitchell Marsh's **(in pic)** fitness will be watched closely as an injury-hit Australia try to ward off a tricky Zimbabwe and move closer to the Super Eights in a Group B match of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Marsh missed his side's big win over Ireland on Wednesday with an internal testicular bleeding and, according to Cricket Australia, the all-rounder will require a considerable period of rest before returning to action. Steve Smith has joined the squad as his cover, but the absence of Marsh did not feel in Australia's 67-run romp here as they produced an all-round effort against the Irish. Without any of the batters making a fifty, they posted a strong 180-plus total before pacer Nathan Ellis and leg-spinner Adam Zampa shared eight wickets among them to give their side two full points.

LIVE 11 AM

But the Aussies would like to better that effort against Zimbabwe, with some heavy runs from opener Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell in the middle-over.

It's a pre-requisite for the Aussies if Marsh indeed is going to be absent partially or even fully for the rest of this ICC showpiece. But Smith's T20 form of late will solace the Antipodeans. The former skipper, whose last T20I was in February 2024, was in roaring form for Sydney Sixers in the recent Big Bash League, plundering 299 runs in just six innings.

The Aussies will require their big guns in fine fettle against Zimbabwe, who have the wherewithal to surprise fancied teams. Oman might not be a leading team, but the efficient manner in which the African outfit dismantled them was an eye-opener.

Canada, UAE look to bounce back

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bogged down by heavy opening losses, Canada and the UAE would be eager to make amends when they take on each other in a Group D clash of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Drawn into the "Group of Death" alongside three top-10 teams -- New Zealand, South Africa and Afghanistan -- both the UAE and Canada face a daunting and unlikely task of making the Super Eight stage.

Their campaigns got off to disappointing starts, with both sides suffering massive defeats. While Canada, which dominated the Americas Regional Final by winning all six matches, lost their opener to South Africa by 57 runs, UAE was handed a 10-wicket thrashing by New Zealand. Canada's lack of match exposure was visible in that loss.

LIVE 3 PM

Sri Lankans dish out a statement victory

PALLEKELE, PTI

Blazing fifties by Pavan Rathnayake and skipper Dasun Shanaka along with Kusal Mendis' assured half-century helped Sri Lanka register a statement 105-run win over Oman in their T20 World Cup Group B clash here on Thursday.

Rathnayake (60 from 28 balls) and skipper Dasun Shanaka (50; 20b) returned to form, while Kusal (61; 45b) anchored the innings with successive World Cup half-century as Sri Lanka piled up 225/5 -- their second highest in T20 World Cup and the highest score of this tournament so far -- after Oman opted to bowl.

Oman's chase never quite recovered from early setbacks as they wilted under scoreboard pressure to be restricted to 120/9.

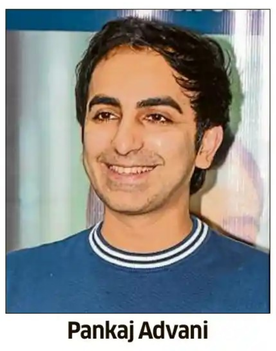
Skipper Jatinder Singh was cleaned up by Dushmantha Chameera in the first over, and Aamir Kaleem and Hammad Mirza soon followed with single-digit scores as Oman slipped to 36/3 inside the Power Play.

Chameera (2/19) struck twice with the new ball, while spinner Maheesh Theekshana was tidy and incisive, returning figures of 2/11 from his full quota of four overs.

There was brief entertainment when Wasim Ali counter-attacked Dushan Hemantha, clubbing the leg-spinner for two sixes in a row -- one over deep midwicket and another forward square leg -- lifting Oman to 75/3 in 11 overs.

Sri Lanka's Pavan Rathnayake hits one to the boundary during his match-winning 28-ball 60 against Oman in Pallekele on Thursday. AFP

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 225/5 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 61, Pavan Rathnayake 60, Dasun Shanaka 50; Jiten Ramanandi 2-41) bt Oman: 120/9 in 20 overs (Mohammad Nadeem 53, Wasim Ali 27; Dushmantha Chameera 2-19, Maheesh Theekshana 2-11). **Result:** Sri Lanka won by 105 runs. **PoM:** Pavan Rathnayake.



Pankaj Advani

Liber Win Champions Cup from Feb 15

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Liber Win Champions Cup, an elite invitational snooker championship featuring 16 of India's top professional players, will be held from Feb 15-17 at the Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA).

Headlining the tournament, to be conducted in association with the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI), will be 28-time world champion (both billiards and snooker) Pankaj Advani. Advani's long-time friend-cum-rival Sourav Kothari, also a world champion, Shrikrishna S, Laxman Rawat, Kamal Chawla and several other top international medallists from across the country will compete in the event.

TCS World 10K on April 26

BENGALURU, DHNS: The TCS World 10K Bengaluru, a World Athletics Gold Label road race, will be held on April 26 with registrations for all race categories opening on February 13 through the official website.

The 18th edition of the event and will carry a prize purse of USD 210,000 (Rs 1.90 crore approx).

The start and finish will be at Cubbon Road, near the Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Parade Ground.

A key rule change this year is that entries for the Open 10K category will be accepted only from participants who submit a valid timing certificate.

MVFC secure easy victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: A goal each by Jishnu H Dass (33rd) and Mayur Kshetragyna (76th) was enough for Mysore Vijayanagara FC to secure a 2-0 victory over MD Spotting FC in the BDFA B Division Group A football tournament here on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: BDFA B Division: Group A: Al Fateh FC: 1 (Zaib Sherief 38th) drew with Bangalore Warriors FC: 1 (Prabhakaran 15th); Mysore Vijayanagara FC: 2 (Jishnu H Dass 33rd, Mayur Kshetragyna 76th) bt MD Spotting FC: 0.
Group B: FC Mangalore: 2 (Mohammad Fawas K 15th, 69th) bt Bangalore Gunners FC: 0; Revive FC: 4 (Muhammad Fasil 40+2nd, Rehaan Rai 42nd, Divin D Illikkal 48th, Aadi Boban 79th) bt Shooterz FC: 0.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 World Cup: Australia vs Zimbabwe (**11 am**), Canada vs UAE (**3 pm**), USA vs Netherlands (**7 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

Asia Cup Women's Rising Stars: Pakistan A vs Nepal (**8 am**), India A vs UAE (**12:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

Warm-up: Australia Governor XI vs India-W (**1:35 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

FOOTBALL

FA Cup: Hull City vs Chelsea, Wrexham vs Ipswich Town (**1:15 am, Saturday**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **FanCode**.

HOCKEY

FIH Pro League: Argentina vs Belgium (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

TENNIS

Dallas Open: Quarterfinals (**4:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

ABN Amro Open: Quarterfinals (**4:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

OTHERS

Winter Olympics: Day 7 (**1:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **JioHotstar**.

HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE

Argentinian lesson for India

Domene nets four goals in visitors' 8-0 thrashing of hosts

ROURKELA, PTI

Inconsistencies continued to plague India as they slumped to a 0-8 defeat against Argentina, with Tomas Domene netting four goals in the Rourkela leg of the FIH Men's Pro League here on Thursday.

Domene (15th, 20th, 26th, 60th) led the charge with his multiple strikes, while Tomas Ruiz (14th), Lucio Mendez (22nd), Ignacio Ibarra (25th) and Nicolas Della Torre (30th) also found the net as the visitors completely overpowered a lacklustre Indian side at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium.

India started on the front foot, attempting to make early inroads, but after a brief spell of dominance, they squandered a golden opportunity to take the lead towards the closing stages of the first quarter when they were awarded a penalty stroke.

Harmanpreet Singh was denied from the spot by the Argentine goalkeeper.

Argentina scored almost instantly with Ruiz (14th) powering his tomahawk into the back of the net to give his side the lead. The visitors quickly doubled their advantage as Domene (15th) managed to guide his effort past Suraj Karkera to give his side a 2-0 lead in the opening quarter.

Searching for a way back into the contest, India began the second quarter with greater urgency as Shilanand Lakra and Harmanpreet Singh earned a couple of penalty corners. However, they were unable to convert, with a goal continuing to elude them.

With momentum on their side, Argentina continued to pile on the pressure. Domene (20th) tripled the lead with a composed finish, and Mendez (22nd) soon added a fourth.

Tomas Ruiz (third from left) celebrates scoring the opening goal in the 14th minute for Argentina during their big win over India in the FIH Pro League in Rourkela on Thursday. X

Ignacio Ibarra (25th) rifled his shot from a tight angle to score a fifth, while Domene (26th) completed his hat-trick soon after.

Nicolas della Torre (30th) also got on the scoresheet, closing out the first half with a 7-0 lead for Argentina.

India created some opportunities with Shilanand and Aditya Lalage coming close to finding the back of the net. However, Tomas Santiago stood tall in the goal for Argentina. Despite creating scoring opportunities, the third quarter ended goalless.

The hosts pushed forward in the final quarter, earning their third penalty corner. However, Argentina managed to find the back of the net against the run of play with Domene (60th) adding a fourth goal to his tally, and giving his side a big win.

Result: India: 0 lt to Argentina 8 (Tomas Domene 15th, 20th, 26th, 60th, Tomas Ruiz 14th, Lucio Mendez 22nd, Ignacio Ibarra 25th, Nicolas Della Torre 30th).

Tomar leads India clean sweep

Indian wins gold with a WR in 50m rifle 3-positions

NEW DELHI, PTI

World championship silver medallist Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar beat teammate Niraj Kumar to clinch gold with a world record, as India swept the podium in the 50m rifle 3-positions event on the penultimate day of the Asian Championship here on Thursday.

Aishwary, who signed off 2025 on a high by clinching Asian Championship gold in Kazakhstan along with silver medals at the World Championships and the World Cup Finals, carried that momentum into the new year.

He fired a world record score of 362 to edge Niraj by a margin of just 0.2 points.

The 25-year-old sealed his triumph with a superb 10.7 on his final shot, finishing with a tally of 362.

Niraj settled for silver with 361.8, while Akhil Sheoran claimed bronze with a score of 343.5 at the Karni Singh Shooting Range.

It was a bittersweet moment for Niraj, who came agonisingly close to gold but had to settle for silver, even as he celebrated his first individual international medal.

The contest went down to the 35th and final shot, underscoring just how tight the battle for the top spot had been.

Niraj fired first to hit a 10.3 giving Aishwary a target of 10.6 to win the gold.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar. NRAI

Sakkari ousts top-seed Swiatek, Rybakina wins to reach quarters

DOHA, AFP: Maria Sakkari rolled back the years as she clawed her way to a nervy 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 victory over top seed Iga Swiatek in the quarterfinals of the Qatar Open on Thursday.

"It's been a while since I had a big win like today," said the 30-year-old Greek, who reached No. 3 in the rankings in 2022 but has slipped to 52nd.

Poland's Swiatek had won the Qatar tournament, a WTA 1000 event, in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Sakkari won her first three career meetings with the young Swiatek but the last of those victories came in 2021. The Pole had won their last four matches, the most recent in straight sets in Qatar last year.

Earlier, Rybakina also had to battle back to defeat China's Zheng Qinwen 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 and end the former world number four's first tournament of the year.

Canada's Mboko won the battle of the teenagers by knocking out fifth seed Mirra Andreeva in a deciding-set tiebreak 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5).

The 19-year-old Mboko saved the match point on the Andreeva serve late in the third set before sealing the deal.

Nagal bows out

Former champion and India No. 1 Sumit Nagal bowed out of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger with a 6-4, 6-7, 3-6 loss to Russian Petr Bar Biryukov, ranked No. 305 in the world, in the second round on Thursday.

In the doubles draw, top seeds Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha/Pruchya Isaro advanced to the last four with a 6-4, 6-1 win over wildcard duo Lohithaksha Bathrinath/Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam.

Maria Sakkari

Avani, Aditi, Pranavi make cut

RIYADH, PTI: Indian golfers Aditi Ashok, Avani Prashanth and Pranavi Urs made the halfway cut at the PIF Saudi Ladies International being played at the Riyadh Golf Club.

The best of the lot was the youngest star Avani, who added a fighting 1-under 71 to her first round 3-under 69 to get to 4-under total. She was Tied-35th.

Aditi shot a solid 33-under 69 to get to 3-under total and was Tied-43rd, while Pranavi (69) played a bogey free round to be T-51.

Diksha Dagar was unlucky to miss out by one shot as she carded 2-over 74 and her total of 1-under for two rounds, saw her make an early exit. Hitaashee Bakshi (74-72) also missed the cut.

Guntas at tied 17th

India's Guntas Kaur Sandhu carded a one-under 71 at the Royal Wellington Golf Club in Wellington on Thursday to emerge as the best Indian at tied 17th position after the opening round of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific on Thursday.

Golden feast for 'The Tiger' Brignone

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO (ITALY), AFP

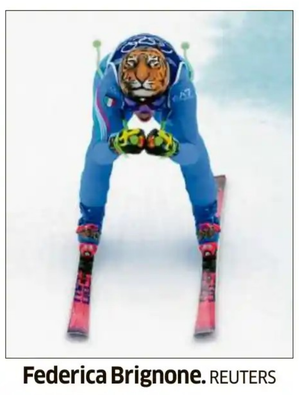
Federica Brignone crowned a sensational comeback from injury to win the women's super-G at the Winter Olympics on Thursday and bring gold medal joy to the host nation.

Nicknamed 'The Tiger', the Italian roared down the slope in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1min 23.41sec to win her first Olympic gold less than a year after she suffered a double leg fracture.

"I was expecting my skiing to be really confident and try to make every turn clean and be, not perfect, but to let my skis go and be smooth through the terrain," Brignone said.

"I tried to always be in front of the slope and to attack. I didn't expect anything else."

The 35-year-old also gave Italy its fifth gold of the Milan-Cortina Games in front of Italian President Sergio Mattarella by finishing 0.41sec ahead of France's Romane Miradoli, with Cornelia Huetter rounding out the podium.



Federica Brignone. REUTERS

"I don't think I've realised it, even with some time already. I have experience, so I know exactly what I did, but I think I will enjoy it more with my team after," Brignone said.

Brignone's participation in the Olympics was in doubt as recently as three weeks ago due to the double fracture of the tibia in her left leg from a crash in a race in April 2025.

Federer HoF ceremony tickets sold out

NEWPORT (US), AP: The International Tennis Hall of Fame said on Wednesday that Roger Federer's induction ceremony sold out in two minutes - even after the Hall added thousands more tickets for an outdoor watch party.

"As a small but historic venue, our capacity is limited," the Hall posted on social media.

The Hall said it anticipated the excitement about the first man to win 20 Grand Slam singles titles, who will be inducted in the Newport-based shrine on Aug 29 along with broadcaster Mary Carillo. In addition to the 900 tickets originally available for the induction ceremony, the Hall will open its 3,600-seat stadium for a watch party.

Even so, the 4,500 tickets were gone within two minutes, Hall spokeswoman Megan Erbes said.

SCB's request for spot in IFL turned down

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sporting Club Bengaluru's (SCB) request for a place in the I-League, which was rechristened the Indian Football League (IFL) on Thursday, was rejected before it could be tabled formally during the executive committee members' meeting of the All India Football Federation.

SCB now stare at losing a prospective foreign investor, a major Serie A club that indicated no investment if the club doesn't stay in the second division. SCB are now on the verge of joining two Bengaluru teams -- Bengaluru United and Agniputhra -- in IFL 2.

The club officials, however, are not happy with the 'preferential treatment' meted out to them by AIFF, pointing next to no official responses as SCB have been writing to them with the same request for the last two months while the case of Churchill Brothers vs Inter Kashi was given priority.

Meanwhile, the main agenda of the meeting was Churchill Brothers' firm appeal for a spot in the upcoming Indian Super League season but found no takers either as members were not in favour of revamping the league schedule with the addition of a 15th team. This makes Inter Kashi the only club to gain promotion to ISL for the season.

While the members acknowledged the contribution of Churchill to Indian football, they couldn't accept the plea with 13 of the 14 ISL clubs (excluding Mohammedan Sporting) also wrote to AIFF not to add another team at the 11th hour of ISL's much-delayed commencement (starting February 14). Earlier, the Goan club indicated that they may wind up operations if they are not allotted a spot in ISL.

The issue dates back to the last season when Inter Kashi were docked off points by AIFF following an issue over a player's registration, subsequently declaring second-placed Churchill the champions with a promotion to ISL.

However, Inter Kashi moved the Court of Arbitration for Sports, who reinstated their points following the hearing of the case, leading to the Varanasi-based club's promotion to the ISL.

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